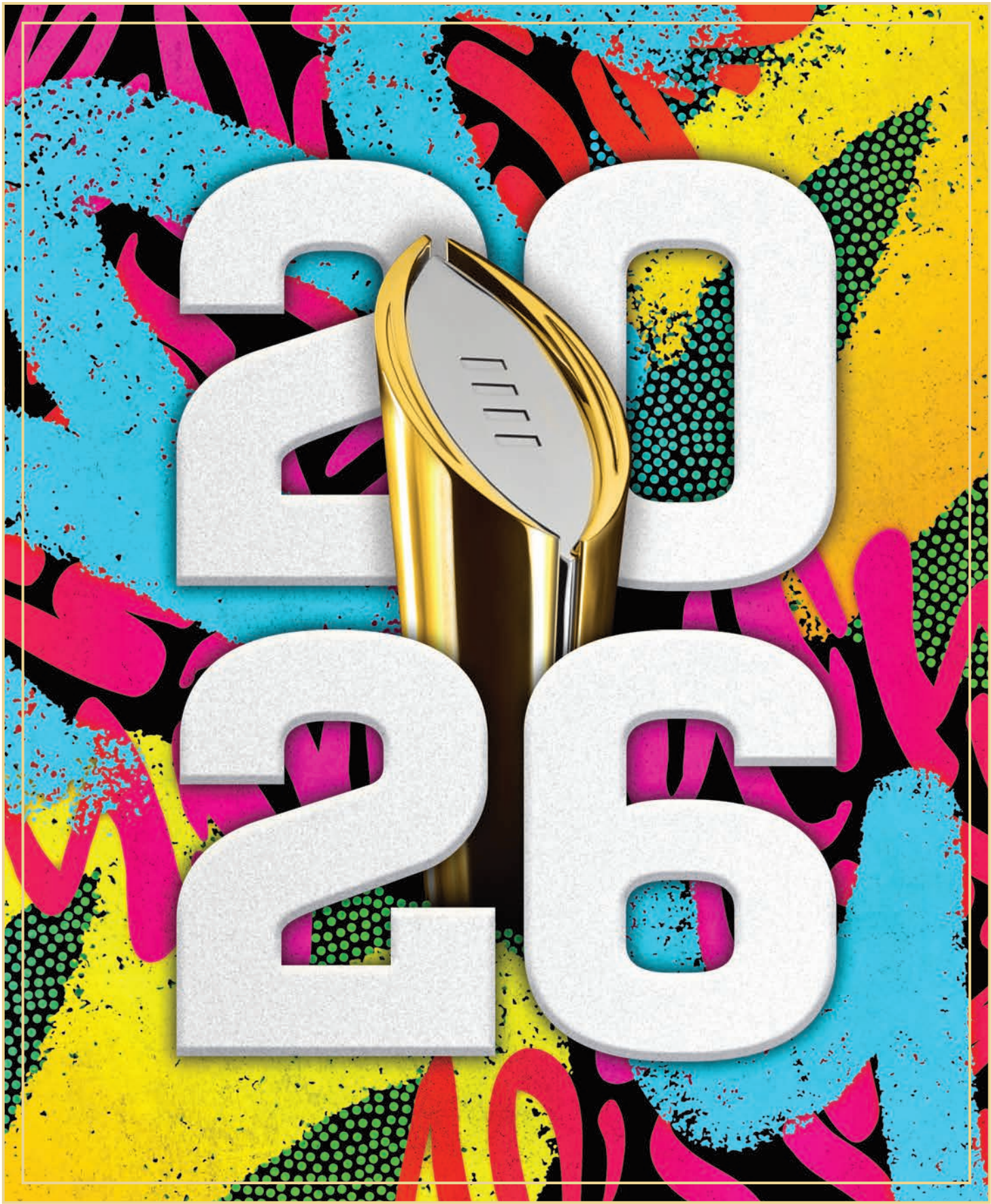

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THE LINEUP

1 Welcome
4 Indiana Hoosiers
6 Miami Hurricanes
11 First and Goal: News, Notes and Fun Facts from Across College Football
19 Desmond Howard Q&A
25 Two Roads to a Championship
32 2025-26 College Football Playoff Bracket
35 Talent-Rich Territory
44 Scouting Reports
53 City of Champions
67 College Football Playoff Chronology
79 Tale of the Trophy
82 Governance
84 Selection Committee
88 Playoff First Round
90 Playoff Quarterfinal at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic
92 Playoff Quarterfinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl
94 Playoff Quarterfinal at the Rose Bowl Game Presented by Prudential
96 Playoff Quarterfinal at the AllState Sugar Bowl
98 Playoff Semifinal at the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl
100 Playoff Semifinal at the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl
105 Hard Rock Stadium
106 Miami Host Committee
109 College Football Playoff Foundation
172 CFP National Championship Rewind
196 AllState Championship Tailgate
197 Game Day Pageantry + National Anthem
198 CFP Staff
200 ESPN Talent

124 Indiana Hoosiers
127 Academics
128 Athletics
130 Head Coach
131 Coaching Staff
132 Spirit
135 Meet the Team
144 Alphabetical and Numerical Rosters
146 How They Got Here

148 Miami Hurricanes
151 Academics
152 Athletics
154 Head Coach
155 Coaching Staff
156 Spirit
159 Meet the Team
168 Alphabetical and Numerical Rosters
170 How They Got Here

2026 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
MIAMI

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Senior linebacker Aiden Fisher was the first linebacker in Indiana history to earn first-team All-America in 2024 and became the first Hoosier defender to earn first-team honors in back-to-back seasons. He is the first back-to-back first teamer for IU since offensive lineman Dan Fenney in 2015-16.

INDIANA HOOSIERS

Carson Beck was voted the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl Offensive Player of the Game after leading a last minute comeback 15-play, 75-yard touchdown drive, capped off by a 3-yard touchdown run to put the Hurricanes into the College Football Playoff National Championship.

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TAKING HOME HARDWARE

Indiana's Mendoza and Cignetti, Texas Tech's Rodriguez Capture Top Honors

Indiana QB **Fernando Mendoza** became the first player in Hoosier history to capture the Heisman Trophy and the first by a CFP participant since 2021. He is the eighth Heisman Trophy winner in the last 12 seasons to participate in the College Football Playoff. Four of those players (Derrick Henry, Joe Burrow, DeVonta Smith and Bryce Young) went on to win a CFP National Championship.

Mendoza, who helped lead IU to its second straight appearance in the College Football Playoff and its first No. 1 seed, finished the regular season with **multiple awards**, including the Maxwell Award and Walter Camp Player of the Year, in addition to the Davey O'Brien Award, presented to the nation's top quarterback.

Mendoza entered the postseason having thrown a touchdown pass in 12 straight games and **leading the FBS in passing TDs (33)**. He also notched five regular-season games with both a passing and rushing touchdown. A product of Miami's Christopher Columbus High School, Mendoza is the third Big Ten quarterback since 2000 with three straight games of at least four passing touchdowns and zero interceptions - C.J. Stroud (Ohio State; 2021) and Kyle Orton (Purdue; 2004, four straight).

For the second straight season, Indiana head coach **Curt Cignetti** was named the Home Depot Coach of the Year, Walter Camp Coach of the Year and AFCA Coach of the Year. Cignetti guided the Hoosiers to its first unblemished regular season in program history, a **program-record 13 wins** through its first Big Ten Championship Game victory and the top seed in the 2025-26 College Football Playoff. He is the first coach to win **consecutive** Walter Camp National Coach of the Year honors in the award's 59-year history.

Texas Tech linebacker **Jacob Rodriguez** was tabbed the 2025 winner of the Bednarik Award, presented annually to the nation's top defensive player. Rodriguez became the first Red Raider in program history to win the award, which was his fourth national award to conclude the regular season (Butkus Award, Nagurski Trophy and Lombardi Award). He is just the **third player** in college football history to win the Butkus, Nagurski and Bednarik in the same season, joining Miami's Dan Morgan (2000) and Notre Dame's Manti Te'o (2012). Rodriguez and Te'o are the only two to also win the Lombardi Award.

Rodriguez led the FBS with **seven forced fumbles** in the regular season and ranks among the top 15 nationally with **117 tackles.** He is the first FBS player since 2005 to record at least five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and four interceptions all in the same season.

CURT CIGNETTI

FERNANDO MENDOZA

JACOB RODRIGUEZ

FIRST AND GOAL

ADDITIONAL HONORS

Other Playoff participants who have been recognized for their efforts upon completion of the regular season:

- After receiving the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award for best defensive back, Ohio State safety **Caleb Downs** was awarded the Lott IMPACT Trophy, which goes to the best defensive player in college football who makes an IMPACT on and off the field. IMPACT is an acronym for integrity, maturity, performance, academics, community and tenacity.
- Texas A&M receiver and return specialist **KC Concepion** received the Paul Hornung Award for college football's most versatile player.
- **Tate Sandell** of Oklahoma earned the Lou Groza Award (top college placekicker).
- Georgia's **Brett Thorson** captured the Ray Guy Award as the punter of the year. Fellow Bulldog **Beau Gardner** is the first player in UGA history to win the Patrick Mannelly Award, which is given to the top snapper in the FBS.
- Notre Dame's **Jeremiyah Love**, who appeared in the 2025 national championship game, received the Doak Walker Award for premier running back, as well as the Disney Spirit Award for Most Inspirational Player.
- Texas's **Michael Taaffe** became the third straight student-athlete (Penn State's Nick Dawkins, Georgia's Ladd McConkey) to have appeared in the College Football Playoff and earn Wuerffel Trophy recognition for community service with athletic and academic achievement. Taaffee was also named captain of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.

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FIRST AND GOAL

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Miami** is the second city to host the College Football Playoff National Championship twice (2021), after **Atlanta** did so in 2018 and 2025. The 2021 national championship game saw Alabama capture its third title in the CFP era as the **No. 1 Crimson Tide** defeated **No. 3 Ohio State**, 52-24.
- Several teams made their CFP debuts this postseason, including **No. 4 Texas Tech, No. 6 Ole Miss, No. 7 Texas A&M, No. 10 Miami, No. 11 Tulane and No. 12 JMU**.
- **No. 8 Alabama and No. 9 Oklahoma** returned to the College Football Playoff for the first time in the 12-team era. Alabama went 9-5 overall in the four-team CFP, capturing national championships in 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2020-21. Meanwhile, Oklahoma appeared in the Playoff Semifinals four times in the first 10 years of the CFP, including the 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons.
- **Top-seeded Indiana** returned to the CFP for the second straight year. The Hoosiers secured the No. 10 seed in 2024-25 and fell in the first round at Notre Dame (27-17).
- Defending national champion and **No. 2 Ohio State** made its seventh CFP berth. The Buckeyes won the first CFP National Championship in the 12-team era, as well as the CFP's inaugural national championship game in the 2014-15 season.
- Two-time College Football Playoff National Champion **Georgia secured the No. 3 seed**, as the Bulldogs made their fourth CFP appearance in five years and sixth overall.
- **No. 5 seed Oregon** returned to the College Football Playoff for the second consecutive season, after the Ducks were the top seed in the 2024-25 field.
- Several teams in the field entered the College Football Playoff leading the country with active win streaks. **No. 1 seed Indiana** entered the postseason with **13 consecutive victories**, followed by **No. 12 JMU** with 11. **No. 3 Georgia** ranked fourth on that same list with nine straight regular-season wins, followed by **No. 4 Texas Tech** and **No. 5 Oregon** with six apiece.
- The **11 previous CFP title games** have produced **692 total points** with the winner scoring 452 and the runner-up 240, an average of 42-22.
- The **No. 1 overall pick** in seven of the previous 11 NFL Drafts, including six of the past eight, has made at least one appearance in the College Football Playoff. Four of the last five No. 1 draft picks, including **LSU's Joe Burrow, Clemson's Trevor Lawrence, Georgia's Travon Walker and Alabama's Bryce Young**, led their respective teams to CFP national titles.

DANTE MOORE

THANK YOU, FANS!

THE WILD WORLD OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FIRST AND GOAL

- **Ohio State and Alabama** are the only two programs in the FBS that have appeared in each of the 72 selection committee rankings since the fall of 2014.
- In the **11 CFP National Championships**, the No. 1 seed won the title four times, while the team that scored first in the title contest went on to capture the crown on five occasions.
- Only **three times** in the history of the College Football Playoff National Championship has a team led the contest from start to finish **(Alabama in 2021, Georgia in 2023, Michigan in 2024)**.
- The eventual CFP National Champion has had to come from behind in **eight of the first 11 title games**.
- The winner of the coin toss is **7-4** in CFP title games.
- **Ohio State's 2025 performance** marked only the third time in the history of the CFP National Championship that a team **rushed and passed for at least 200 yards in the title game**. The Buckeyes collected 214 yards on the ground and 231 through the air (445 total).
- Teams from the **Big Ten** have captured back-to-back national championships after **Ohio State** completed the feat in 2025 and **Michigan** did so in 2024. It marks the first time the conference has touted consecutive outright national championships **since 1940-42 (Minnesota, Minnesota, Ohio State)**.
- Super Bowl LIX was a historic one for former CFP national champions. The 2021 CFP National Championship Offensive Player of the Year, former Alabama WR and current Philadelphia Eagle **DeVonta Smith** became the first player in the College Football Playoff era and fifth all-time to win the Heisman Trophy, a College Football Playoff national title and a Super Bowl. Meanwhile, former Alabama/Oklahoma QB and current Philadelphia Eagle **Jalen Hurts** became the first CFP National Champion to go on and earn Super Bowl MVP honors.
- Since 2014-15, four teams completed a campaign with a **perfect 15-0 record** en route to the CFP National Championship: **Clemson (2018-19), LSU (2019-20), Georgia (2022-23) and Michigan (2023-24)**.

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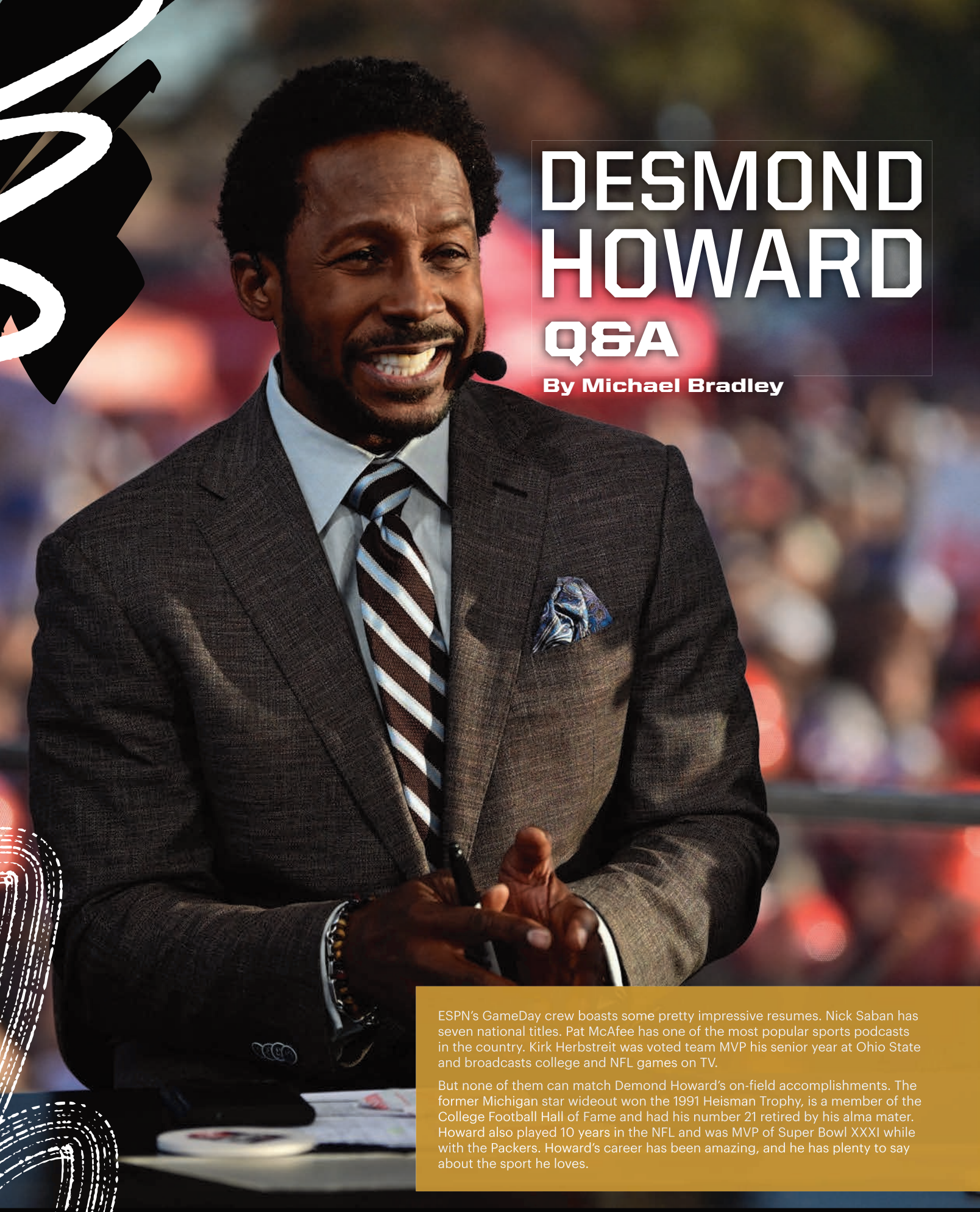

DESMOND HOWARD Q&A

By Michael Bradley

ESPN's GameDay crew boasts some pretty impressive resumes. Nick Saban has seven national titles. Pat McAfee has one of the most popular sports podcasts in the country. Kirk Herbstreit was voted team MVP his senior year at Ohio State and broadcasts college and NFL games on TV.

But none of them can match Demond Howard's on-field accomplishments. The former Michigan star wideout won the 1991 Heisman Trophy, is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and had his number 21 retired by his alma mater. Howard also played 10 years in the NFL and was MVP of Super Bowl XXXI while with the Packers. Howard's career has been amazing, and he has plenty to say about the sport he loves.

DESMOND HOWARD Q&A

Question: What was it like doing GameDay this year without Lee Corso?

Desmond Howard: Lee was a staple. He's Lee. [The show] would have never gotten as far as it has without Lee Corso. We understood it was time, and we did the best job we could acknowledging him and celebrating him and showing what he meant to the show and to us.

Q: How would you describe the GameDay dynamic without Lee Corso?

DH: The dynamic has been great, and everybody is on the same page of wanting to produce a great show for the audience. Everybody is committed to that. The chemistry is good, and we are committed to who we are as a team. We all have the same love and passion for the sport.

Q: What do you think College GameDay means to the sport?

DH: It's important, judging by the numbers. If you talk to coaches and players, they say that if they have a game that doesn't start at noon, they're tuned in to part of it. It has relevance. I don't know how to quantify it, but it's a big part of college football. I have had fans of the University of Miami come up to me and thank me for some of the comments we made that they believe led to some changes that helped make the program competitive again. At the end of the day, we want to make sure we give the audience the best product we can. We want to give them the best information to help them have good opinions about college football.

Q: What is it like to be part of ESPN's College Football Playoff coverage?

DH: It's fun to be part of it. It's exciting. It's a different season. When I was in the NFL, the regular season was the regular season. We looked at the postseason as a different season. That's how I look at the CFP. It's fun to be part of the postseason. It's more exciting. It's what everybody points to. We're able to promote the games and keep interest at an all-time high. It's something we don't take lightly.

Q: Do you wish there had been a playoff when you played at Michigan?

DH: When I played, we didn't have the option for any postseason games beyond the Rose Bowl. But I don't have any regrets that I didn't play in the playoff. The ultimate goal was still to win the national championship. I don't think any of the guys who won a national championship without a playoff say, 'I wish we had three more games to play.'

Q: What do you think is the most exciting thing about the playoff?

DH: The most exciting thing is to be able to host a playoff game in your own stadium. That's as good as it gets. I wish the first two rounds were on campus. And I'm very happy that we'll now get to see some of these SEC powerhouses play up in Big Ten country in December and January.

CHIKIN IZ ALWAYZ A GUD PLAY

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OFFICIAL TIMEPIECE OF THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

TWO ROADS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

TWO ROADS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP

Fans of contrasts will love this year's CFP National Championship.

Miami is trying to recapture its status as an elite college football program by winning its sixth national title, while Indiana is hoping to win it all for the first time ever.

The football should be great, but the storylines will be almost as compelling.

"I can't wait to play in Hard Rock Stadium," Hoosiers' QB **Fernando Mendoza** said after IU blasted Oregon, 56-22, in the Peach Bowl. "There's zero five-stars [recruits] on our team. We're just a bunch of gritty guys who are glued together in going toward a common goal."

The goal was the same in Coral Gables when the '25 season started. The Hurricanes were ranked 10th in the pre-season AP poll, quarterback **Carson Beck** had joined the program, Miami had added several other transfers who were expected to contribute, and the recruiting class was stout. Fans were hoping the 'Canes could return to the lofty status they occupied in the 1980s and '90s.

In their opener, the Hurricanes subdued last year's CFP finalist, Notre Dame, 27-24, on a late field goal, and that optimism grew. It was Miami's first win over a top-10 team in more than seven years, and it was keyed by two Beck TD passes and a late defensive stop after Carter Davis hit a 47-yard field goal with 1:04 left.

"It's just an unbelievable night," Miami coach **Mario Cristobal** said. "Unbelievable night for so many people that poured so much into this."

The win ended a streak of eight consecutive losses to top-10 teams. After a rout of Bethune-Cookman, the 'Canes faced surprising South Florida, which had upset Boise State and Florida to begin the season. But the Bulls were not a threat, and the Hurricanes rolled to a 49-12 triumph.

Next up was Florida. Although the Gators had fallen to USF, they were still considered dangerous. But Miami was dominant defensively, holding UF to a mere 141 total yards – its lowest total since 1999 – in a 26-7 victory. Meanwhile, **Mark Fletcher Jr.** rushed for 116 yards and a score, and Marty Brown added two TDs for the 'Canes.

"We've come miles, but we have miles and miles to go," Cristobal said after the win.

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TWO ROADS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP

Two weeks later, the Hurricanes claimed the unofficial "state championship" by beating Florida State in Tallahassee, 28-22. Beck threw four TD passes, including a pair to standout freshman wideout **Malachi Toney**.

After a week off, the Hurricanes entered the meat of their ACC schedule. It didn't go well. Miami dropped decisions to Louisville and SMU, with a win over Stanford in between. Suddenly, a highly-promising season looked like it would bring more disappointment.

But the 'Canes rebounded and finished the season strongly, winning their final four games by an average of 27.5 ppg. The finale was a 38-7 road rout of Pittsburgh that featured three Beck TD passes and another outstanding defensive effort that limited the Panthers to 30 rushing yards. Miami's final argument for CFP inclusion was a strong one as the Hurricanes earned a No. 10 seed.

First up was a visit to Texas A&M in what became an absolute slugfest. Even though Fletcher ran for a career-high 172 yards, Miami couldn't find the end zone. But neither could the Aggies. All-America defensive end **Rueben Bain** sacked A&M passer Marcel Reed twice after a Toney fumble, and the splendid freshman made up for his mistake by catching a TD pass with 2:18 left to secure a 10-3 victory and earn Miami a quarterfinal date with second-seeded Ohio State.

The Buckeyes were nine-and-a-half-point favorites, but the Hurricanes stunned them by jumping to a 14-0 first-half lead that featured a 72-yard pick-six by **Keionte Scott** and a TD reception by Fletcher. The 'Canes' 24-14 triumph catapulted them into the semis against Ole Miss and continued their late-season surge.

"I was full of emotions. ... That was a pretty cool moment," said Scott about his return. "Just having fun. ... That's what this team relies on, man, just going out there playing free and just having fun."

Against the Rebels, the Hurricanes didn't get to smile until Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss' last-second pass into the end zone fell incomplete. Miami earned a 31-27 comeback victory when Beck scrambled three yards for a touchdown with 0:18 to play to cap a 15-play, 75-yard drive.

"It almost seems like the tougher it gets, the better we play," Cristobal said. "And it's a testament to [the players], to their resilience and their will."

At a time when ordinary athletic accomplishments are celebrated, and superior efforts accorded mythical status, what has happened at Indiana might just require some form of celestial eminence. The Hoosiers have lost more games during their football history than every D-I program except Northwestern, and their jump out of the cellar happened only recently. Should the Hoosiers complete their undefeated season, they will join Yale's 1894 squad as the only 16-0 teams in college football history and complete a turnaround that must be considered one of the greatest sports stories of all time.

IU's roster is loaded with talent, beginning with Mendoza, the Heisman Trophy winner, but the real reason for the program's stunning revival is head coach Curt Cignetti, the hyperfocused, unflinchingly direct 64-year old who had the audacity during his introductory press conference to say, "I win. Google me," and then backed it up immediately.

Last year was Cignetti's first season, and he led the Hoosiers to an 11-2 record. Their only losses were to the CFP finalists, Ohio State and Notre Dame. Some wondered whether IU could continue to thrive at that level in Year Two, especially since the team had lost several key performers from '24, most notably quarterback Kurtis Rourke.

But Indiana began silencing doubters in late September when it thrashed ninth-ranked Illinois, 63-10. Not only did the victory vault IU forward in the polls, but it also served as an opening argument in Mendoza's Heisman campaign. The California transfer threw five TD passes and completed 21-of-23 passes.

"I got back into being who I am," Mendoza said after the win. "Who I am with trying to accelerate my footwork, finish throws and to really just trust my eyes and to really rip the ball."

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TWO ROADS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP

As the season progressed, Mendoza kept ripping, and the Hoosiers subdued their Big Ten competition. Included was a 30-20 win over then-third-ranked Oregon. But there was one big scare that only Mendoza's magic could overcome. Trailing Penn State 24-20 in the game's final minutes, Indiana secured an improbable victory when Mendoza hit Omari Cooper with a seven-yard TD pass with 0:36 remaining to keep the Hoosiers' perfect season alive.

"Refuse to lose," Cignetti said during a post-game interview on Fox. "This was an unbelievable win. I've seen a lot of stuff in my days. I've never seen anything quite like this."

The Hoosiers' 12-0 regular season earned them a Big Ten Championship Game meeting with OSU, the defending national champ. But a superior defensive effort and clutch plays by Mendoza keyed a 13-10 victory and brought IU the top seed in the College Football Playoff. That meant a first-round bye and a quarterfinal date with Alabama in the Rose Bowl. It was the Hoosiers' first trip to Pasadena since the 1967 season.

Indiana manhandled the Crimson Tide, holding it to a mere 23 yards rushing while amassing 215 yards on the ground. It was a resounding victory, one that quieted any doubters and proved that Cignetti's approach to physical football was not only effective, but also unstoppable.

"Oh, we broke them," senior edge rusher Mikail Kamara said. "They got to a point where we broke them."

The victory sent IU to a semifinal rematch with Oregon, and the Hoosiers wasted no time establishing their superiority. Eleven seconds into the game, IU's D'Angelo Ponds returned an interception 21 yards for a TD, and the rout was on. Indiana rolled to a 35-7 halftime lead and cruised from there.

"It was a great win against a really good football team," Cignetti said. "Really proud of our players, our staff."

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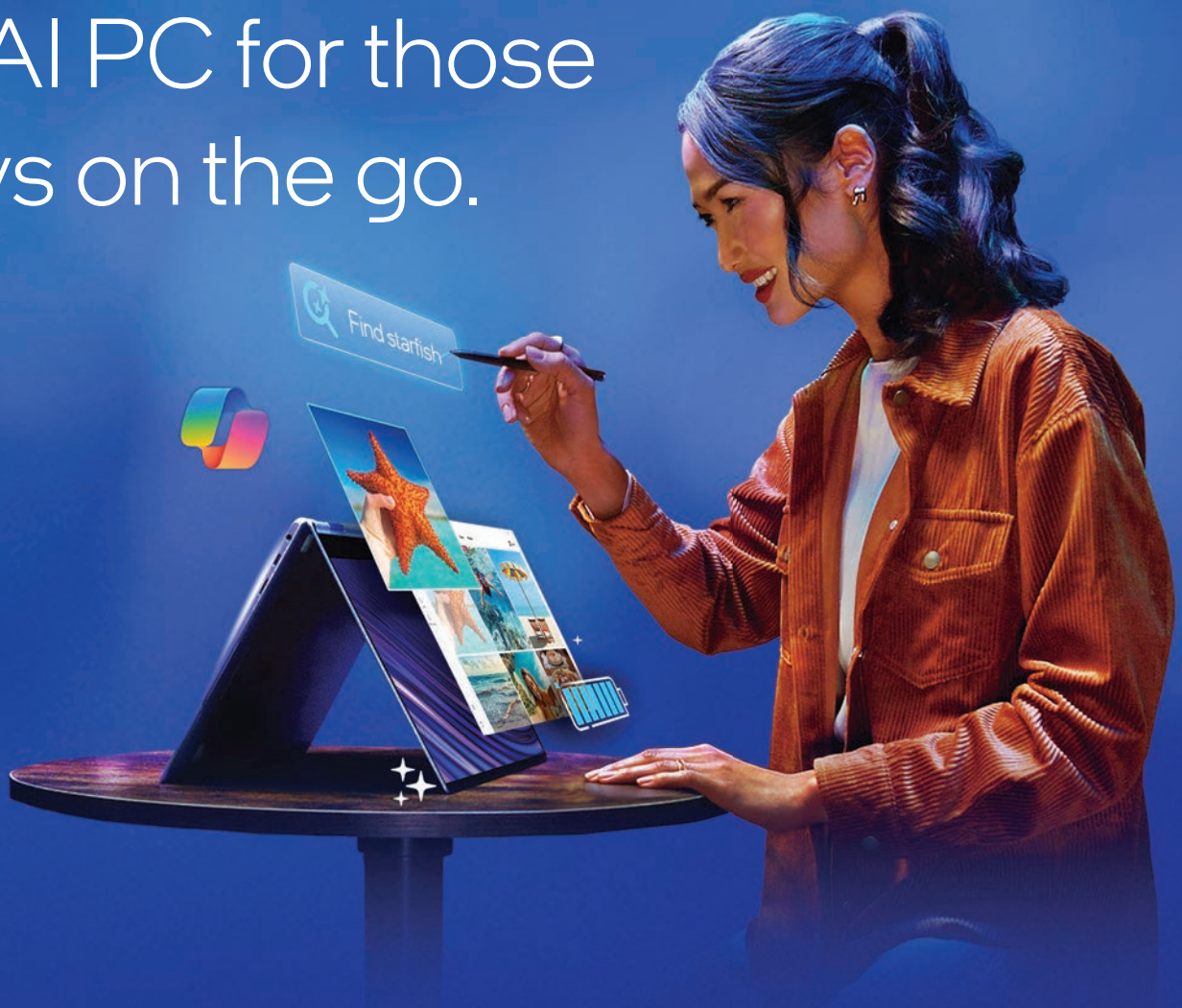

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JANUARY 9
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NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
DECEMBER 19
8 P.M. ET

- ALABAMA 34
- OKLAHOMA 24

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JANUARY 1
4 P.M. ET

- ALABAMA 3
- INDIANA 38

- INDIANA 56

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DECEMBER 20
3:30 P.M. ET

- TULANE 10
- OLE MISS 41

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL
JANUARY 1
8 P.M. ET

- OLE MISS 39
- GEORGIA 34

VRBO FIESTA BOWL
JANUARY 8
7:30 P.M. ET

- OLE MISS 27

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS
DECEMBER 20
NOON ET

- MIAMI 10
- TEXAS A&M 3

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DECEMBER 31
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- MIAMI 24
- OHIO STATE 14

- MIAMI 31

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TALENT-RICH TERRITORY

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

TALENT-RICH TERRITORY

College football coaches have developed reputations over the years for their extreme efforts to locate top recruits for their teams.

They'll travel anywhere. They'll endure crazy home visits. They'll watch high school basketball games in the dreariest winter climates, just to see if an offensive line prospect has good feet.

When Mark Richt was head coach at Miami, he might have established a new standard for excessive recruiting practices.

"I would go to the parks in Miami and watch kids' games," said Richt, who directed the program from 2016-18. "I would bring players in their Hurricane jerseys, so the kids could look up to the players. We would recruit long-term."

Some might say spending some time watching a Pop Warner game among 10-year-olds isn't too productive, but Richt understood that there was incredible talent in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and that identifying it early wasn't a bad idea. Further, developing relationships with the youth coaches was a solid strategy because their influence could last until players graduated from high school – and beyond.

"We knew many of the youth league coaches because a lot of them were the strongest male role models kids had," Richt said. "Moms wanted their kids to play football because it gave them a chance to go to college, but also because of the guidance they received from these men."

There is a reason Richt – and just about every other college football coach – devoted so much energy to attracting talent from the county: There has been a ton of it over the past 70-plus years. Florida is loaded with excellent players, and an all-time all-star team from practically every county in the state would be formidable. But it would be hard to imagine a squad anywhere would be much better, or even better at all, than an aggregation from that particular swath of south Florida.

Listing all of the standouts from the area could fill several pages, so here is a sampling of elite players that will no doubt cause some to complain about those left out:

Frank Gore, Andre Johnson, Lomas Brown, Larry Little, Ted Hendricks, Derrick Thomas, Jonathan Vilma, Michael Irvin, Antrel Rolle and Sean Taylor.

That's four Pro Football Hall of Famers, countless all-America honors and plenty of Miami pride.

There are more greats. Many more.

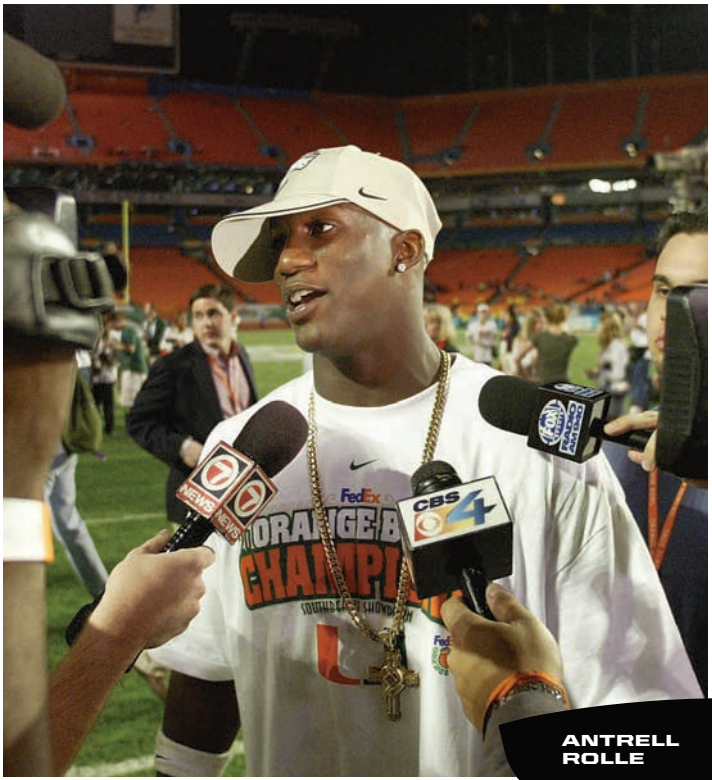
Colleges across the country have tried to establish footholds into Miami in the hopes of luring talent away from Florida, Florida State, Miami and the state's other Division I programs. Some have succeeded in big ways, including recently. This year's Heisman Trophy winner, Fernando Mendoza, went to Columbus HS in Miami. Ohio State all-America wideout Jeremiah Smith was born in Miami Gardens. But plenty of talent still stays close to home. This year's second-team all-Americas Rueben Bain (defensive end) and Malachi Toney (wideout) of the Hurricanes hail from the area, as does first-team all-American D'Angelo Ponds (cornerback) of the Hooisers.

"There seems to be more athletes in that area of south Florida," said Steve Spurrier, who won the 1966 Heisman, led Florida to a pair of national titles and spent the first year of his life in Miami. "It is a hotbed for football players."

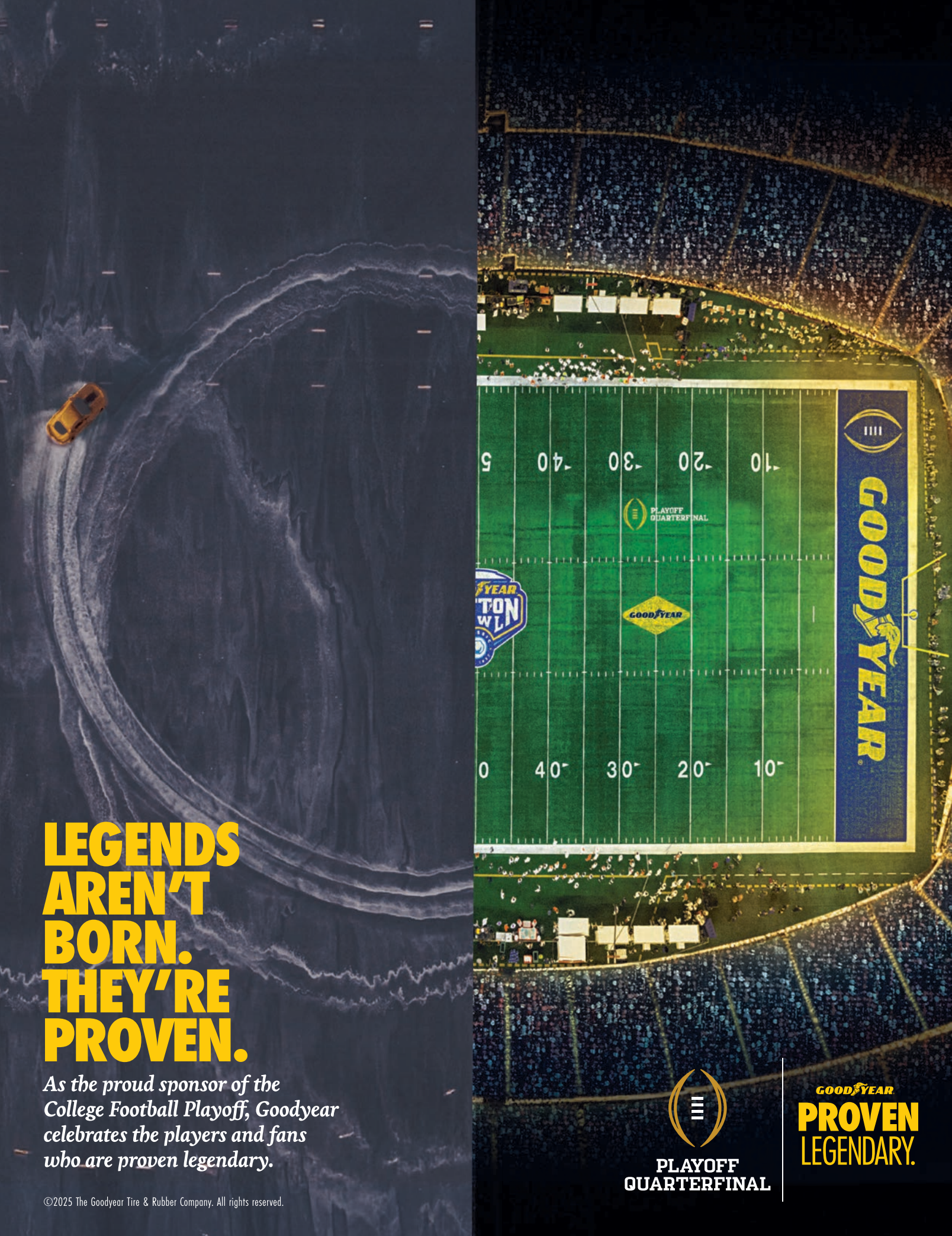
Spurrier reported the Gators had "a bunch of players from the Miami area" when he was there, and there were others throughout the 1960s, including Hendricks, who was of Guatemalan descent and who earned consensus first-team all-America honors twice at Miami before the "Mad Stork" went on to a Hall of Fame career in the NFL.

Little graduated from Booker T. Washington HS and played at Bethune-Cookman before joining the Chargers as an undrafted free agent. He is best known for 12 seasons as a

ANDRE JOHNSON



ANTRELL ROLLE



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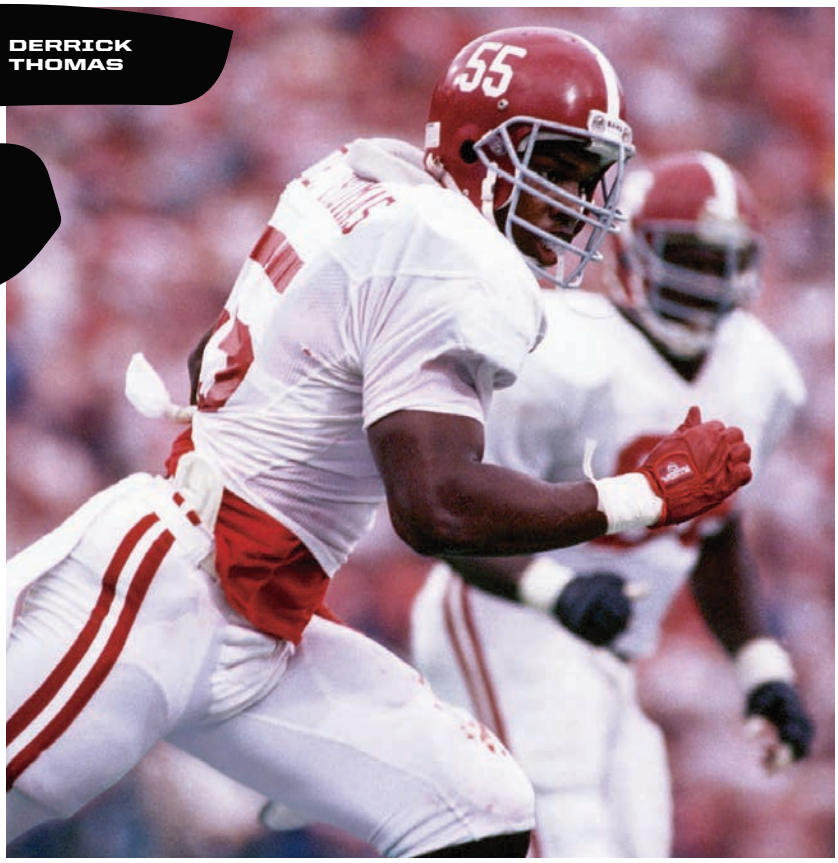
TALENT-RICH TERRITORY


DERRICK THOMAS

ELVIS PEACOCK

guard on the Dolphins and was a big part of their two Super Bowl teams. Nat Moore, an all-purpose star at Edison HS who played at Florida, was a 13-year fixture for the Dolphins and a first-team all-Pro in 1977. There were others during the '60s and '70s. Many others.

"Tommy Shannon played QB [from 1962-64] at Florida," said Spurrier of the lefty passer from North Miami Beach. "We had about 60 kids on the team when I was there, and about a third of them were from the Miami area."

As the 1970s progressed, more and more schools around the country discovered the area and began to recruit it. Elvis Peacock went from Miami Central HS to Oklahoma in 1974 to become a backfield fixture in the Sooners' wishbone attack and was joined there a year later by nose tackle Reggie Kinlaw of Miami Springs HS, who was a two-time first-team all-America nose tackle. In 1971, Neal Colzie moved from Coral Gables HS to Ohio State, where he became a first-team all-America cornerback before embarking on an nine-year NFL career.

"Everybody knows how good the area is," said Jimmy Johnson, who coached at Miami from 1984-88. "When I was at Miami, Florida and Texas produced so many good players that we had to fight off teams from everywhere who wanted to recruit there."

But the Miami area didn't gain full national attention until Howard Schnellenberger took over the Hurricane program in 1979 and declared that the State of Miami – essentially everything from Tampa south – would become the primary supplier of talent for the 'Canes. And supply it, it did. The Hurricanes won five national championships from 1983-2001, with rosters chock full of kids who wanted to be part of the hometown "U" and what that stood for. The Hurricanes didn't just draw from Miami and its surrounding areas. They defined it and helped create a strong personality in a place that had sometimes struggled with poverty and violence.

"Players from there want to spout the [305, 786, 645] area codes," Richt says. "There's definitely a pride factor."

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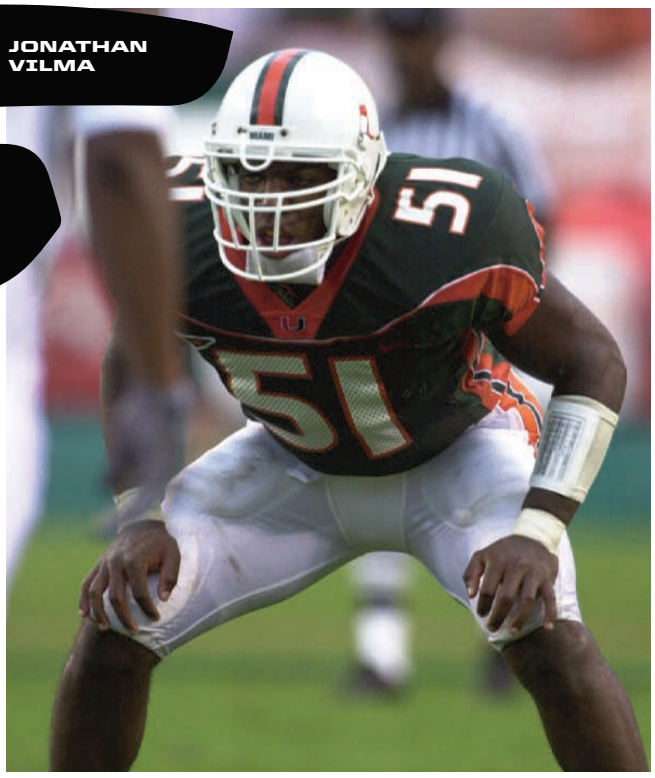
TALENT-RICH TERRITORY

When Jeremiah Smith played youth football for the Miami Garden Ravens, one of his coaches was Rod Mack, a linebacker for the Hurricanes in the mid-1990s. Mack used to tell his players about former 'Canes greats like Ray Lewis and Sean Taylor.

"He would tell us stories about how hard they practiced," Smith said. "He was trying to instill in 11, 12 and 13-year-old kids what was expected of us."

Smith certainly paid attention. The Ohio State sophomore was a first-team all-America this season and has NFL teams wishing he didn't have to wait another year before entering the Draft. Smith spent his freshman year at Monsignor Pace HS in his hometown before transferring to nearby Chaminade-Madonna HS, where he won three state titles.



JONATHAN VILMA

Smith said that the hypercompetitive youth scene flows smoothly into high school ball, where "there is talent everywhere across the field." Smith said that by the time he was a junior, his practices were packed with college recruiters hoping to attract his attention. But that didn't mean he was the only player they were watching.

"You might go somewhere to see a player, and someone else is balling, too," he said.

Richt backs that up. He said there were many times when he was coaching that an assistant would go to a game focused on one recruit, only to return with a request for Richt to check out someone else. "They would tell me, 'We got to get this kid to campus for a visit or to our [summer] camp,'" Richt said.

Although there can be no doubt many of the young players in the Miami area are talented, not all of them are four and five-star prospects. Unlike recruits at schools in Texas, which have tremendous resources and even "activity periods" built into the school day that allow coaches to stage additional workouts, many south Florida players are underrated.

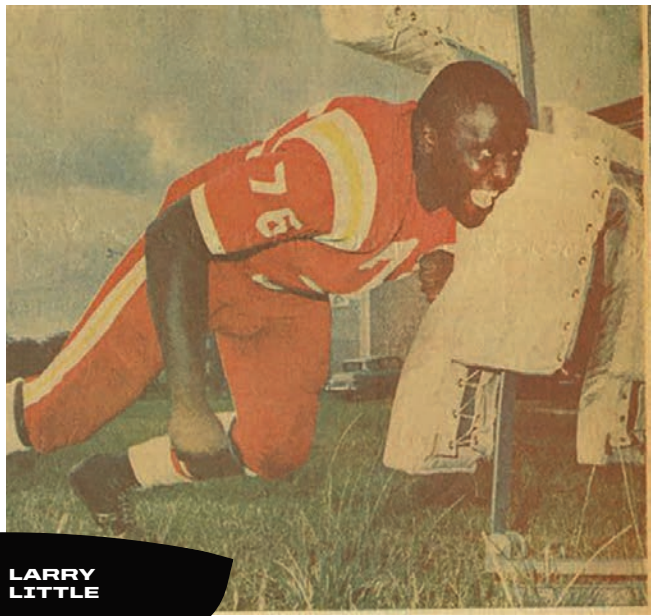
"A lot of [Miami-area] schools do a great job of developing players because they have the resources, but others don't have the resources," Richt saidd. "A lot of times, you get a three-star player out there, but that rating isn't close to his potential.

"He gets to college, and people say, 'Where did this dude come from?'"

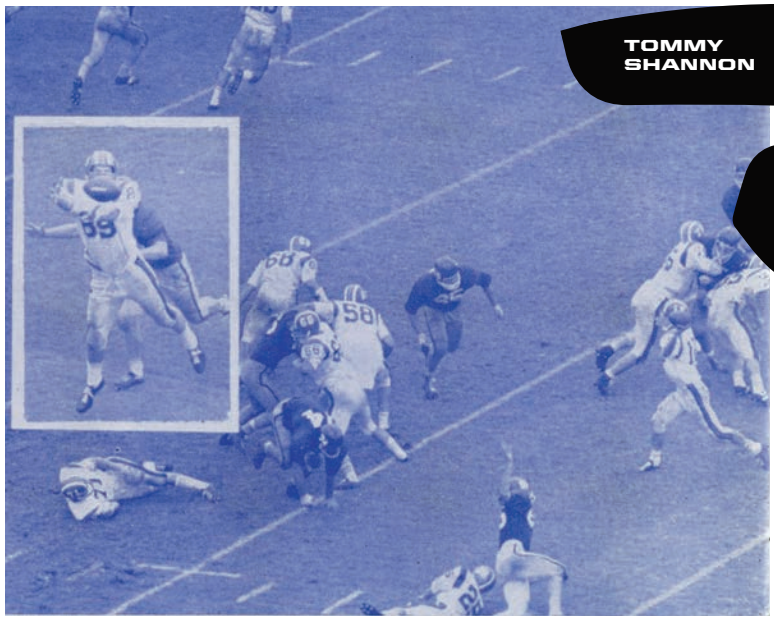
That's why Richt had each one of his coaches recruit the Miami area in addition to their responsibilities in other parts of the country.

"Everybody recruited the State of Miami," Richt said. "Everybody had part of that real estate."

Johnson didn't have his entire staff recruit the greater Miami area when he coached the Hurricanes. He had a couple of assistants with ties to the area, so they focused on it. Johnson also looked to other parts of the country and used Miami's national profile at a time when not every game was televised. But he knows that south Florida had some built-in advantages that helped prospects to develop.



LARRY LITTLE



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TALENT-RICH TERRITORY

"Because of the weather, the kids there are outside 12 months out of the year, and they're active," Johnson said. "That helps them become outstanding athletes."

Melvin Bratton, who graduated from Northwestern HS and played for the 'Canes from 1983-87, agreed.

"We played outside all year round, sharpening our tools," Bratton said. "We didn't play 7-on-7 tournaments. We played in the park or in the streets. We played 'kill the guy with the ball.'"

Bratton also spoke about the hyper competitiveness that prevailed in the area from an early age. It began with the youth programs in the northwest, southwest and central parts of the city. And then there are Mack's Ravens, who "go around the country and kick ass," Bratton said. By the time those players reach high school and play in stadiums like Tropical Park, which seats 7,000, they thirst to beat each other. That rivalry takes good players and makes them become even better.

"It's a love-hate relationship between the guys in high schools," said Bennie Blades, who played for Miami from 1984-87 and had a 10-year NFL career. "We would root for each other until we got onto the field against one another."

Players develop the intense desire to defeat their rivals, and when they get to college, they bring the same hypercompetitive attitude. That's a Miami-area trademark. Some people see it as cockiness. Others criticize those whom they believe are showing off. But it's a combination of the wealth of talent in the region, the desire to subdue any rival and decades of players who want to represent the area to the standard that has been created.

"Competition is instilled in the players at an early age," Johnson said. "I always wanted players who were not only confident but also who were extremely competitive. The competition is so fierce down there that it develops the players."

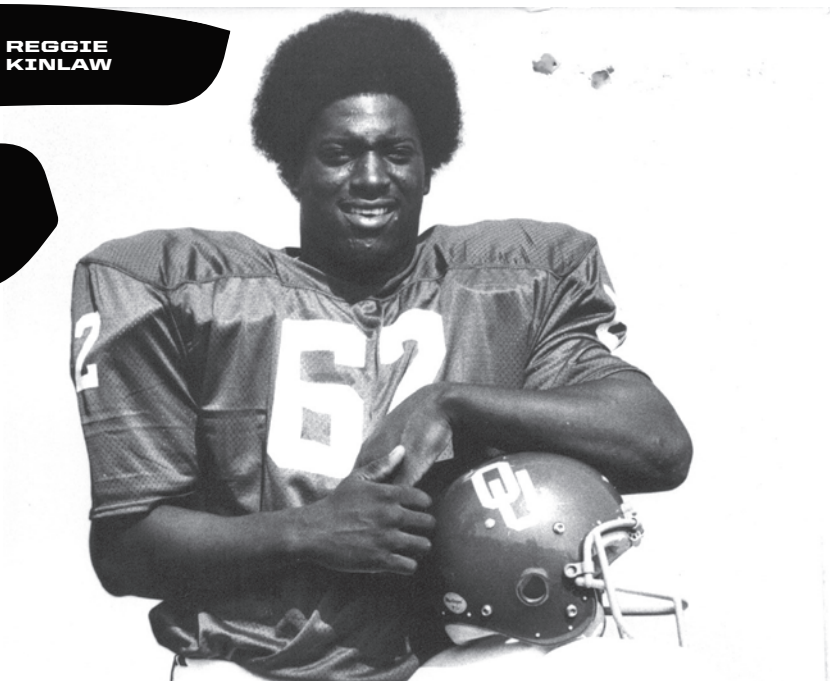
The brotherhood continues after the players head to college and even the pros. Richt said that when he coached at Miami, players from the area would come back in the summer from schools all over the country to work out together. Not all of them were highly-rated recruits when they were in high school, but they often blossom.

"Schools from all over know there are so many dudes down there and so many gems," Richt said. "There may be a three-star recruit from there in the race for the Heisman."

Or winning it, like Mendoza did.

And continuing the legacy.

SEAN TAYLOR



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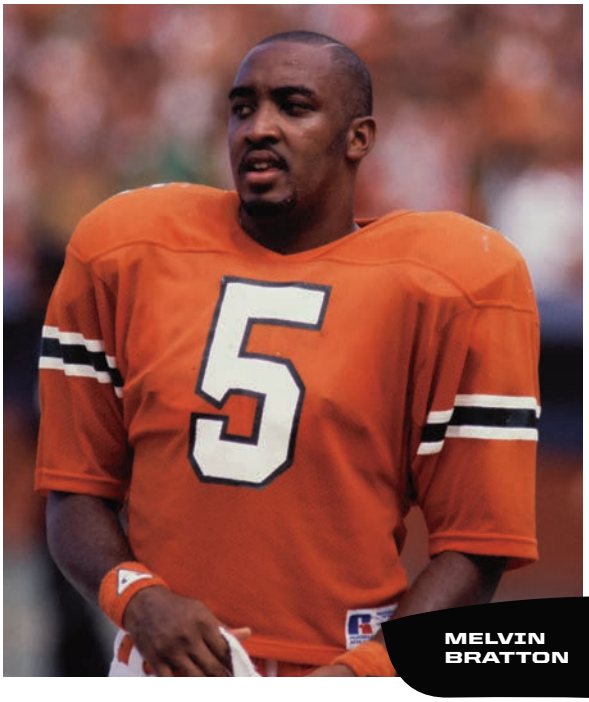

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SCOUTING REPORT – OFFENSE

Chandler Whitmer joined **Mike Shanahan** as a co-offensive coordinator at IU this season and has helped produce the nation's second-leading scoring offense (42.6 ppg) and fifth-best overall attack (472.8 yards per game). The Hoosiers are a balanced squad that thrives on the ground and through the air. IU is a productive red-zone team and can beat rivals with quick strikes or long drives.

The attack is triggered by Heisman Trophy winner **Fernando Mendoza**, who transferred to Bloomington from California and immediately became a potent threat in the air as well as on the ground. Mendoza has the most passing TDs in a season in Indiana history (41) and has thrown for four in one game six times in 2025, while tossing five in three contests. Against Michigan State, he threw for a season-high 332 yards on 24-of-28 passing, four scores and no interceptions. For the year, he has completed 73.0 percent of his throws for 3,349 yards with only six interceptions. His biggest moment this season came in the come-from-behind win over Penn State, when Mendoza hit **Omar Cooper** in the back of the end zone with a 7-yard pass to secure the victory. Indiana coach **Curt Cignetti** said Mendoza is the best QB he has ever seen. He certainly convinced Big Ten coaches of that. Mendoza was the conference's Offensive Player of the Year, the winner of the Griese-Brees Quarterback of the Year award and first-team all-Big Ten.

"It's because he wants to be great," Cignetti said. "He's willing to make the sacrifices and put the work in and has the discipline to do it day in and day out. I think Chandler Whitmer has done a great job, too, of developing him and showing him the way."

In addition, Mendoza has kept overaggressive defenses in check with 284 yards and six touchdowns on the ground.

"He's a great leader," IU linebacker **Rolijah Hardy** said. "I feel he's the best quarterback in the country. He shows it by his play."

The Hoosiers have some strong receivers, led by wideouts Cooper (64 receptions, 13.5 average, 13 TDs), **Elijah Sarratt** (62, 12.9, 15) and **E.J. Williams** (36, 12.2, 6) all of whom have the potential to break big plays. Sarratt and Cooper are second-team all-Big Ten. Tight end **Riley Nowatkowski** (30, 12.3, 2) is a reliable target, and Charlie Becker (30, 20.5, 4) can hit the occasional home run and was huge in the Big Ten Championship Game win over Ohio State.

Indiana's ground attack is a group effort. The Hoosiers have three reliable backs – plus Mendoza. Leading the way is **Roman Hemby** (1,060 yards, 5.0 average, 7 TDs). In the regular season win at Oregon, he rushed for 70 yards and two scores.

"Roman Hemby is a warrior," Cignetti said. "That guy gives 100 percent every day, every play. Physical runner, fast, smart, great hands, great out of the back field. And he's a guy that wants the ball, that you can give the ball to and that he's been durable."

Kaelon Black (961, 5.7, 10) and **Khobie Martin** (505, 6.5, 6) are the Hoosiers' other backs, and each is productive and reliable. Plus, like all of Cignetti's backs, they are willing blockers.

The runners operate behind an experienced line that was a semifinalist for the Joe Moore Award and which is particularly strong on the left side, where two-year junior starters guard **Drew Evans** and tackle **Carter Smith** operate. Carter is particularly strong and was the Big Ten's Rimington-Pace Offensive Lineman of the Year. Right guard **Bray Lynch** is another stalwart, and center **Pat Coogan** was named second-team all-Big Ten.

FERNANDO MENDOZA

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SCOUTING REPORT – DEFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS

The Hoosiers have been impressive on offense this season, but their defense has been particularly stingy, as evidenced by four first-team all-Big Ten performers and a second-teamer. IU is second in the nation in scoring defense (10.3 ppg), second in total yards allowed (252.6 yards per game), second against the run (73.7 ypg) and 18th versus the pass (178.9 ypg). Indiana didn't merely outscore people. It shut them down, too. Coordinator **Bryant Haines** has been part of all four of Cignetti's coaching staffs and has no doubt gained his trust.

There are playmakers at all three levels for IU, beginning with the linebacking corps, which features the team's top two tacklers, **Rolijah Hardy** (92 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, eight sacks) and **Aiden Fisher** (93, 9.5, 3.5). The sophomore Hardy started four games last year and became a fixture in 2025 while earning Big Ten second-team honors.

"I think mentally he's gotten out of his own head," senior linebacker Fisher said. "[Rolijah] came in as a young guy trying to digest an entire scheme that, for me, took a whole year, year and a half, to get under my belt. Seeing how fast he's been able to do it, especially last year, and see how he was able to play and be productive this year — he's taken it and ran with it. He's playing confident, he's playing fast. He's very familiar with everything. I think he's comfortable in the scheme [and] in his position."

Fisher has had a strong season, too, and was named first-team all-Big Ten. **Isaiah Jones** (76, 15.5, 7) may not have been listed among the starters on the depth chart, but he was a consistent performer and enemy backfield disrupter all year, en route to earning Big Ten honorable mention.

Although **Tyrique Tucker's** tackle numbers (33) are not overwhelming, the nose tackle posted 11.5 tackles for loss and sacked opposing quarterbacks 5.5 times, an impressive total for someone who plays his position. He is another first-team all-Big Ten performer and a big reason enemy backs averaged a mere 2.9 yards per carry and scored just five times on the ground against IU. Both of Indiana's ends, **Stephen Daley** (38, 19, 5.5) and **Mikail Kamara** (30, 7, 2) were given conference honorable mention.

Opposing passers had some tough games against the Hoosiers because of a defense that picked off 18 passes and permitted just nine TD passes. Two members of the secondary received first-team all-Big Ten notice. Strong safety **Louis Moore** was third on the team with 81 tackles and had a team-high six interceptions, while cornerback **D'Angelo Ponds** registered 50 tackles, 3.5 of them behind the line, and broke up eight passes. Free safety **Amare Ferrell**, received all-Big Ten honorable mention, thanks to 47 tackles, four interceptions and seven pass breakups. And cornerback **Jamari Sharpe** had six tackles for loss to go with his five broken up passes and team-high four forced fumbles.

On special teams, kicker **Nico Radicic**, a 5-foot-11, 187-pound redshirt sophomore, sets the tone. This year, he's 16-for-17 on field goals and 84-for-84 on extra points.

He was named Big Ten Bakken-Anderson kicker of the year after leading the conference in scoring (109 points) and made extra points (70) during the regular season.

Last season, Radicic was 69-for-69 on extra points, including a program record 11-for-11 against Western Illinois. He was 10-for-11 on field goals.

"Nico has been money in the bank for two years," said Cignetti, winner of back-to-back national coach of the year honors. "We've been pretty fortunate. About the last five of our kickers have been that way. We have certain things we do with them that have worked up to this point, but it's really all credit to the kickers and their ability to put the ball between the uprights."

As far as punting, **Mitch McCarthy** averages 40.6 yards with a long of 52. Ten of his 27 punts were inside the 20-yard line.

When he was injured, **Quinn Warren** filled in and averaged 48.0 yards on six punts. Warren also filled in on kickoffs when Franke was injured.

During the regular season, the Hoosiers only punted 33 times. Opponents punted 69 times.

Receiver **Jonathan Brady** thrives as a punt returner, averaging 17.5 yards per return, including a 91-yard touchdown to earn all-conference honors.

Running back **Roman Hemby** averages 22.6 yards per kickoff return.

Beyond that, long snapper **Mark Langston** made first-team All-Big Ten.

ROLIJAH HARDY

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SCOUTING REPORT – OFFENSE

After experiencing a 2024 season that featured tremendous quarterback play from Heisman finalist Cam Ward, some Miami fans worried that the program wouldn't get top-flight play under center in '25. Enter **Carson Beck**, the Georgia transfer who arrived in Coral Gables with a torn UCL ligament in his throwing elbow.

Although Beck had some rough stretches throughout the season, especially a four-interception night in the loss to Louisville, he closed with authority and gives the 'Canes a potent weapon under center. After undergoing surgery and rehabbing into the summer, the third-team all-ACC performer finished the regular season with 3,581 passing yards on 73.3% completion success, with 29 TDs and 11 picks. Most impressive was his play during Miami's last four regular-season games, when Beck went 89-for-112 (79.5%) for 1,125 yards, 11 scores and only one interception. It showed his capabilities once he was completely comfortable with the Hurricane attack and propelled Miami to the College Football Playoff.

"Well, I think anytime you don't participate fully in spring practice, there's a lot of value to spring, let me start by saying that," Miami head coach **Mario Cristobal** said in November. "And I thought that we had overcome a lot of that. Do you ever fully get [missing spring practice] back? You don't. There's been some really good moments, and then some others where you wish you would have had more time, but certainly we feel great about the last couple of weeks of all the things that are transpiring offensively."

One of the reasons Beck has been so successful this season has been the play of true freshman **Malachi Toney** (99 receptions, 11.0 average, 9 TDs), an all-purpose standout who was named ACC Rookie of the Year and Offensive Rookie of the Year. Toney was a consistent threat as a receiver, tormented rivals as a punt returner and even hearkened back to his high school days, when he played some quarterback, by throwing two TD passes throughout the season.

"I've said this from the jump, from the first time I met him," Beck said in October. "There's just something different about the kid. I just don't know how to explain it. I don't know how to explain it, but just the way he carries himself, who he is ... I mean, he's in the facility nonstop, 24/7. We meet together. We go over practice film. We go over game film. We talk routes. We talk coverages. We talk about everything. He's such a smart kid, too, which I think helps at the wide receiver position."

Keelan Marion (56, 13.2, 2) and **CJ Daniels** (46, 10.8, 7) are the other top Miami targets. Leading the ground game is **Mark Fletcher Jr.** (1,080 yards, 5.4-yard average, 10 TDs), who was named third-team all-ACC. Fletcher has gained at least 100 yards four times this season, including 133 against Ole Miss in the Fiesta Bowl. He scored three times in the win over Stanford. **CharMar Brown** (469, 3.9, 7) and **Girard Pringle Jr.** (375, 6.0, 4) are also productive backs.

They work behind a line that features four all-ACC selections and which is led by tackle **Francis Mauigoa**, a first-team choice. Right guard **Anez Cooper** is a second-teamer, and center **James Brockermeyer** and left tackle **Markel Bell** made the third team.

KEELAN MARION

IT FUELS THE BEST

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SCOUTING REPORT – DEFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS

When the Hurricanes were at their peak in the 1980s and '90s, their defenses were loaded with future pros who could stifle enemy attacks in a ruthless way. This year's unit has plenty in common with its ancestors and boasts all-conference performers at all three levels. Miami is sixth in the nation in scoring defense (13.8 points/game), seventh against the run (86.8 yards/game) and 11th in total D (277.8 ypg). In the 26-7 win over Florida in late September, Miami held the Gators to just 141 yards of total offense.

It starts up front, and that means end **Rueben Bain Jr.**, who was named the ACC Defensive Player of the Year and who already has NFL scouts in a froth. Bain has amassed 46 tackles, 13 of which have come behind the line, and 8.5 sacks. He has also picked off a pass and forced a fumble. Though his numbers aren't gigantic, Bain faces constant double teams and is a huge disruptive force. Cristobal says Bain is "the best defensive player in college football."

"You try to run away from him, he's going to chase you down," Cristobal said. "You try to double-team him, well, you better be secure in that. And you also are going to free up somebody else. And when you single block him, you know he has so many different counters and pass rush moves and his capabilities. Can't say enough great things about him."

It would be irresponsible for other teams to regard the rest of the Miami defensive front as light work. The Hurricanes haven't limited rivals to 2.9 yards per carry and only eight TDs on the ground by accident. Bain is hugely disruptive, but so is the other starting end, **Akheem Mesidor** (60 tackles, 15.5 tackles for loss, 10.5 sacks), another first-team all-ACC choice.

"He's showing the entire world right now what he can do," Cristobal said. "He's such a high-impact player. He has learned the value of resilience. He has battled back from injuries and come out on top and is still getting better."

Tackle **Ahmad Moten** (26, 8.0, 4.5) was named second-team all-ACC, and nose man **David Blay** received honorable mention.

The Hurricane front wall occupies a lot of blockers, which makes the Miami linebackers quite productive. Weakside 'backer **Mohamed Toure** (73, 3.0, 2.0) is the 'Canes' top tackler and an honorable mention all-ACC performer, while middle man **Wesley Bissainthe** (63, 2.5, 1.0) is a second-team all-conference player.

Miami limited opposing passers to 59.5% passing success and a mere 12 touchdown passes in the regular season, and a big reason for that success is strong safety **Jakobe Thomas** (70, 4.0, 3.5), who has picked off five passes this year and was named second-team all-ACC in his first year with the Hurricanes after transferring from Tennessee. Nickelback **Keionte Scott** (61, 13.0, 5.0) suffered a lower-body injury in early November and missed the last three games of the regular season but came back strong in the Playoffs. Cornerback **Damari Brown** and safety **Zechariah Poyser** (47 tackles) are honorable mention all-conference picks.

The Hurricanes have some of the best special teams in the nation, in all phases.

Kicker **Carter Davis** is a tremendous weapon and has made 14-of-16 field goals this year He is 6-of-8 from 40 yards and beyond, with a long of 53 yards. He made two field goals in a game six different times this year, and his 47-yarder with 1:04 left was the difference in the win over Notre Dame. Davis is also excellent on kickoffs with 88.2% of his tries being touchbacks.

Dylan Joyce has had a strong year at punter, averaging 44.4 yards per boot and putting 16 of his 37 kicks inside enemy 20-yard lines. He has a long this year of 73 yards.

Malachi Toney is an excellent punt returner who has averaged 14.4 yards this year, including a 47-yarder. **Keelan Marion** is an honorable mention all-ACC pick at kick returner, thanks to his 25.3-yard average. Miami's opponents were only able to average 4.5 yards on their punt returns, and they managed 19.4 yards bringing back kicks.

AKHEEM MESIDOR

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CITY OF CHAMPIONS

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

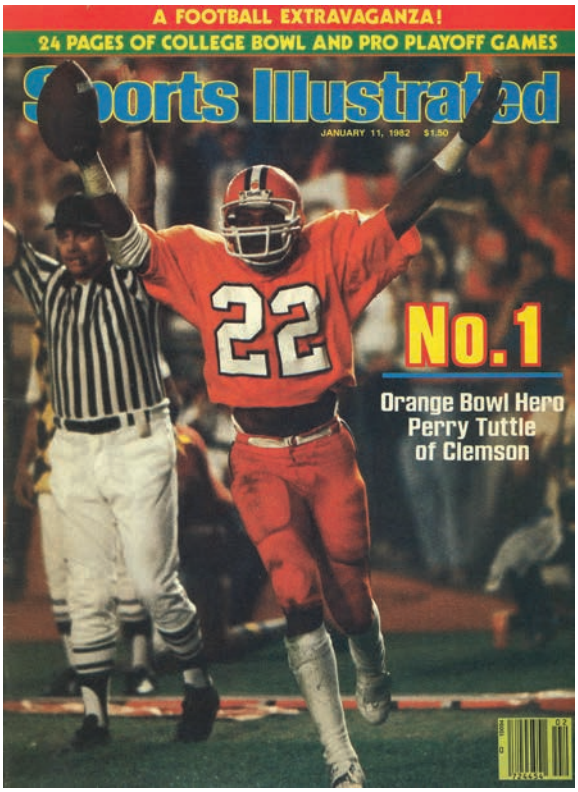
It started with the britches.

In 1980, one season before Clemson won the program's first national title, the Tigers were 5-5 and were heavy underdogs heading into their annual, season-ending rivalry slugfest with South Carolina.

"They had [eventual Heisman winner] George Rogers," said Perry Tuttle, a senior receiver on the team. "We had no business winning that game."

The Tigers went through their warmups in their orange jerseys and white pants and returned to the locker room for final instructions from head coach Danny Ford and found orange pants hanging in their lockers.

"Coach Ford makes an amazing speech about how we don't lose in orange britches," Tuttle said. "We never even played in orange britches. But we felt like we were on Cloud Nine."



DANNY FORD

CITY OF CHAMPIONS

The unranked Tigers upset No. 14 South Carolina, 27-6, to establish some momentum heading into the off-season. Thanks to great participation in summer workouts, the team bonded and entered 1981 believing it could accomplish great things, even though few others did.

"We thought we could be special," Tuttle said.

Clemson was special. The Tigers rolled through the regular season, 11-0, behind a bloodthirsty defense that held nine opponents to 10 or fewer points. Tuttle and quarterback Homer Jordan keyed the offensive attack, and Ford's old-school, country demeanor kept everybody focused and motivated. By the time the Tigers reached Miami for an Orange Bowl showdown with fourth-ranked Nebraska, they felt nobody could beat them, even if some people – as Tuttle said – didn't know what state Clemson was in.

"Everybody knew who Nebraska was," said Jeff Davis, a linebacker on the team and an assistant on Dabo Swinney's current staff. "We couldn't wait to show them who we were."

Since 1955, 21 national championships have been won in Miami, some in the poll era, others in the BCS configuration, and now in the College Football Playoff. There has been great drama and plenty of heroes, all of which has helped make south Florida a landmark part of the sport's history.

Oklahoma leads the way with five national titles secured in south Florida, and Nebraska has captured four. The Cornhuskers have played for (and lost) the crown another five times in the Magic City, something that didn't make Huskers fans too happy. Miami has celebrated a national championship in its home on three occasions.

"It was a privilege to play big games there," said Tom Osborne, who coached Nebraska from 1973-97 and was the offensive coordinator on two Cornhusker national title squads (1970 and '71) that were coached by Bob Devaney.

The '81 Huskers had lost a pair of games to Iowa and Penn State, but entered the Orange Bowl against Clemson ranked fourth in the nation, thanks to eight straight wins to close the season, including a 37-14 drubbing of archrival Oklahoma.

A TD pass from halfback Mike Rozier to Anthony Steels gave Nebraska a 7-6 lead after one quarter, but Cliff Austin's two-yard run put Clemson in front. The Tigers went for two and failed, and the halftime score was 12-6. Clemson stretched the lead to 19-6 in the third quarter when Jordan hit Tuttle with a 13-yard TD pass.

BOB DEVANEY

TOM OSBORNE

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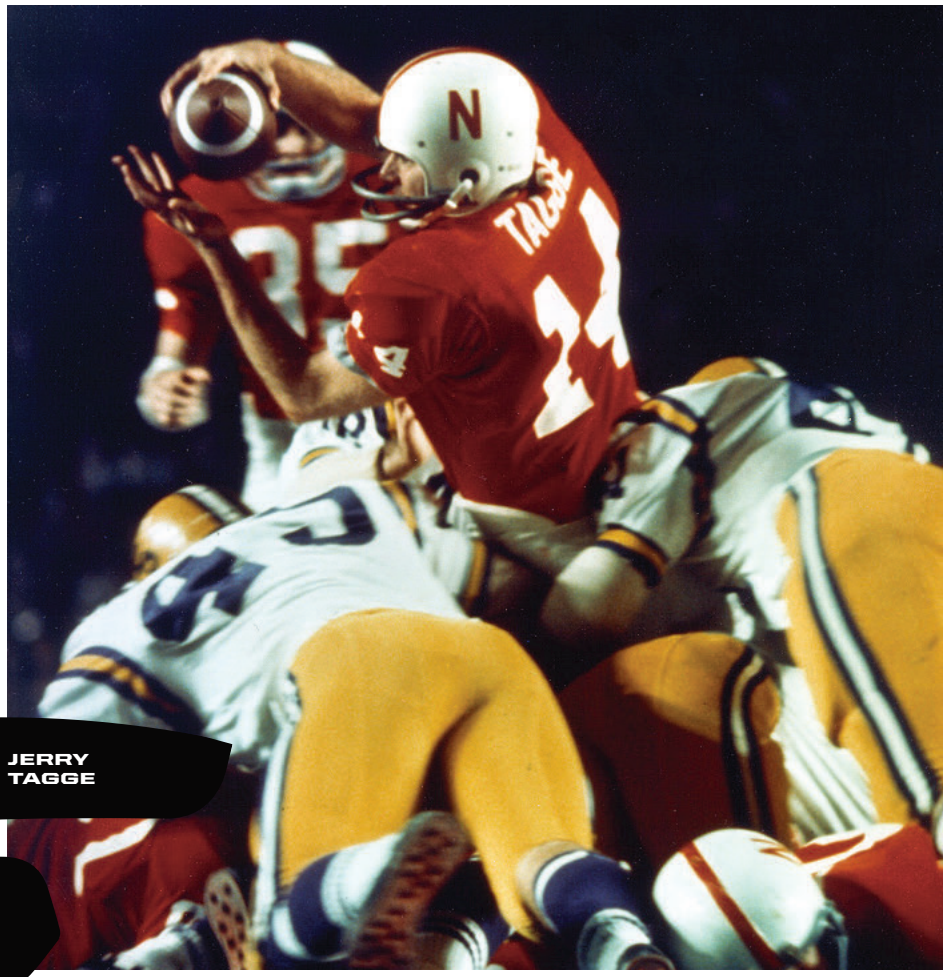

JERRY TAGGE

"I was doing a marketing deal in Florida at Disney [years later], and Tom Osborne was there," Tuttle said. "I went up to him and reached out my hand and said, 'I'm Perry Tuttle.' He [jokingly] reached for my throat and said, 'You caught that pass. You almost got me fired!'"

A 36-yard Donald Igwebuike field goal in the third period – his third of the game – pushed the score to 22-7, but Nebraska wasn't going to fold. The Cornhuskers made it 22-15 with 9:15 left in the game on Roger Craig's 26-yard run, but the Huskers couldn't do anything else, and Clemson secured its first-ever title.

"We were the first ones who did it," Jordan said. "No matter what the team is doing now or did after that, we won the first one. I'm proud of that and proud of the guys on the team. It's really something special. We won, but the relationship I have with my teammates is way more important."

Osborne's Cornhuskers didn't prevail that day, but he had plenty of success in Miami, even if Nebraska did fail other times in steamy south Florida.

"I often thought if we could play Miami in Lincoln on January 1, that would be a nice thing," he said with a laugh.

Nebraska was 10-0 and ranked fourth nationally when it dropped a 39-28 decision to third-ranked Alabama – the eventual national champion – in the 1966 Orange Bowl. Five years later, the third-ranked Huskers were back in Miami to face LSU. Earlier in the day, both Texas and Ohio State lost their bowls, making the matchup between Nebraska and the Tigers a de facto national title game. Osborne had been named the team's offensive coordinator prior to the 1969 season (he had joined Bob Devaney's staff in '64) and had changed the Cornhusker attack to an I-formation, heavy-run offense from a full-house configuration.

The 17-12 win over LSU featured a quick start that propelled Nebraska to a 10-0 first-quarter lead, but the Tigers fought back and took a 12-10 advantage as time expired in the third. A one-yard run by QB Jerry Tagge capped a 67-yard scoring drive with 8:50 left, and the Cornhuskers held on for the victory and the title.

"Tagge did a lot of things well," Osborne said. "He wasn't terribly fast, but he was durable, had good size and was productive."

The Cornhuskers didn't need any help from other teams in 1971. Thanks to a Heisman Trophy season by all-purpose wingback Johnny Rodgers and a penurious defense that held 10 of 13 opponents to seven or fewer points and was keyed by Outland Award winner Rich Glover, Nebraska rolled to the national title and throttled Alabama, 38-6 in the Orange Bowl. Included in the remarkable season was a thrilling, 35-31 triumph at No. 2 Oklahoma in the Game of the Century.

"We didn't miss a beat," Osborne said. "Other than Oklahoma, nobody came within too many points of us."

It would be 23 years before the Cornhuskers earned another national title, and there was plenty of disappointment packed into those two-plus decades. Included were the aforementioned loss to Clemson and the 31-30 heartbreaking defeat to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl, when the Huskers entered as a 12-0, top-ranked thresher. Nebraska also lost the 1992 Orange Classic to the Hurricanes and the 1994 game to Florida State, 18-16, on a Scott Bentley field goal with 0:21 to play. Nebraska missed a 45-yard try as time expired that would have won the game.

Things were different for the 1994 Huskers. "There was tremendous resolve on the football team not to let that happen again," Osborne said.

However, Nebraska lost starting QB Tommie Frazier four games into the season with a blood clot in his leg. But backup Brook Berringer led the Cornhuskers to a perfect regular season, and the Cornhuskers entered the 1995 Orange Bowl against the Hurricanes ranked first in the nation and ready to overcome the ugly memories of past losses against Miami. Frazier was back under center for the game, I-back Lawrence Phillips (1,722 yards, 16 TDs) was practically unstoppable carrying the ball, and the defense was ruthless.

"We said going into the football game that we had no doubt we were going to win," Frazier said. "We knew we were the best team, and if we went in and played our game and eliminated mistakes, we were going to win."

It didn't look that way early in the third quarter, when Frank Costa's second TD pass of the game gave Miami a 17-7 lead.

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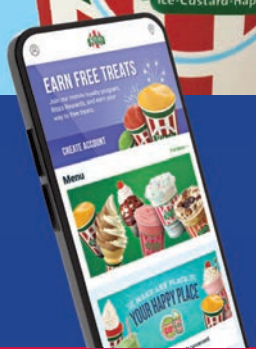

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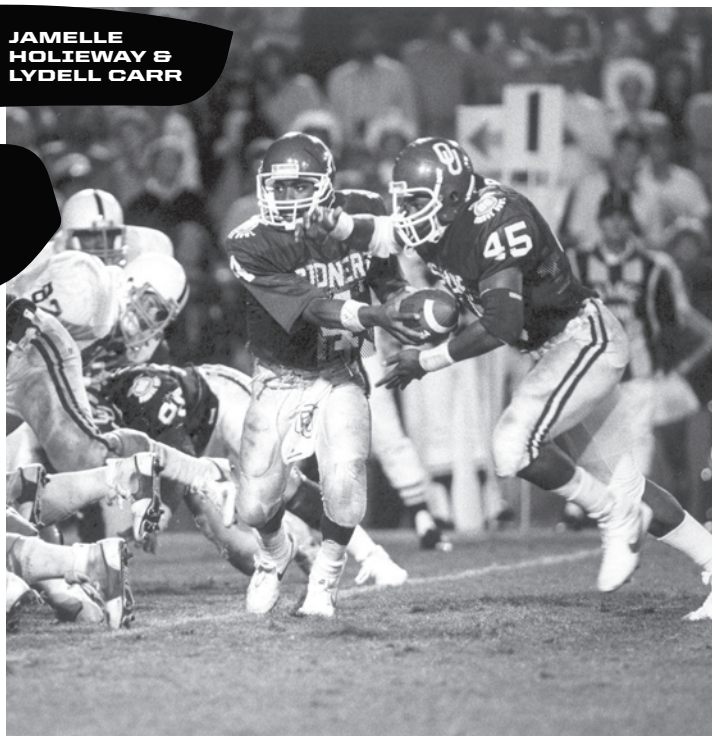

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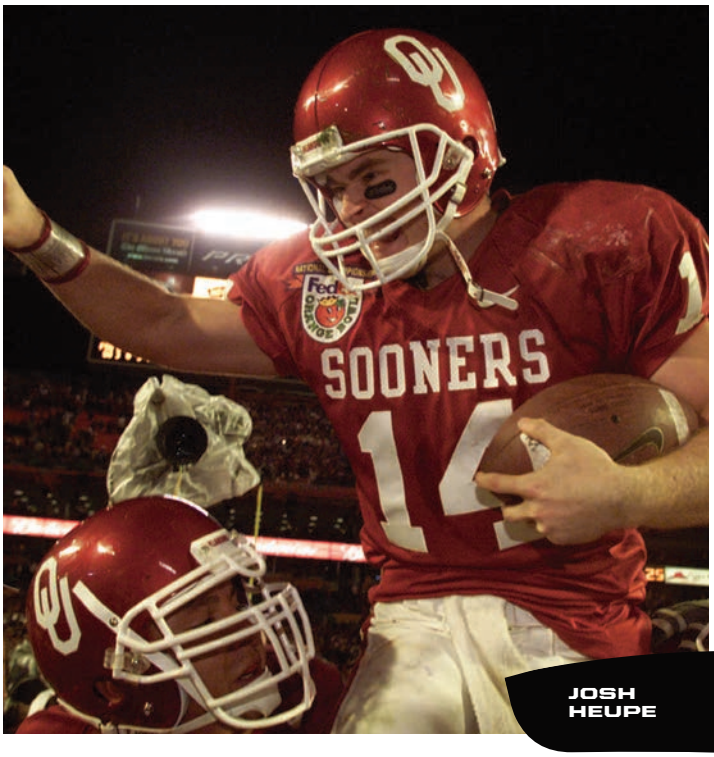

JOSH HEUPE

But Frazier, who had left the game in favor of Berringer after the Cornhuskers' first drive, returned and led a pair of touchdown drives, both of which culminated in scoring runs by fullback Cory Schlesinger. The second was a 14-yarder with 2:46 left that made the score 24-17. From there, the Nebraska "Black Shirts" defense stifled the Hurricane comeback – "Our defense played that year with passion and a ruthless abandon," Frazier said – and gave Osborne his first national title as a head coach.

"We really wanted to win that game for him," Frazier said. "He's one of the greatest coaches ever, and the knock on him had been that he couldn't win the big game."

Osborne won two more national titles after that, in 1995 and 1997 – which was punctuated by a 42-17 rout of Tennessee in the Orange Bowl – but that 1994 championship was perhaps the most important.

"It was something of a relief," he said.

Of the five crowns the Sooners have secured (1953, '55, '75, '86, '01) in Miami, perhaps none was more impressive than its 1955 title, which featured a 20-6 win over fourth-ranked Maryland in the Orange Bowl. Two years earlier, fourth-ranked OU had beaten the number one Terrapins, 7-0, in Miami. But because the final Associated Press poll was released before the game, Maryland claimed the title – although other selectors awarded the crown to Oklahoma after the Orange Bowl triumph.

When the teams met in the '56 Classic, OU was in the midst of its record 47-game winning streak under coach Bud Wilkinson and had shut out five of its regular-season opponents, including the last four. The Terrapins held a 6-0 halftime advantage, and Wilkinson was livid in the locker room.

"You're screwing it all up!" he shouted.

But Oklahoma stormed back to score 20 unanswered points and captured the game and the top spot in the final Associated Press rankings.

"Oklahoma is the best team in the country," Maryland coach Jim Tatum said after the game.

Miami has won five national titles, and three of them were secured at the venerable Orange Bowl, including its most famous, which came during the 1983 season. Coach Howard Schnellenberger took over the sagging 'Canes in 1979 and immediately declared he would lead them to a national title. The football world laughed – if it was paying attention at all – but in 1983, Miami overcame a season-opening loss at Florida and won its next 10 straight to earn an Orange Bowl berth with Osborne's top-ranked Cornhuskers.

"When Schnellenberger recruited us, he said in five years we would be competing for a national championship," said Jay Brophy, a senior linebacker on the '83 team. "Five years after he recruited us, we won a national championship."

The fifth-ranked Hurricanes bolted to a stunning 17-0 lead, but the Huskers stormed back to tie the game early in the third quarter. Touchdown runs by Alonzo Highsmith and Albert Bentley gave Miami a 31-17 advantage, but Nebraska didn't quit. Two fourth-quarter touchdown runs by Jeff Smith, the last on a 24-yard run with 0:48 to play, made the score 31-30. A tie would have kept Nebraska undefeated and probably would have produced a national title, but Osborne chose to go for two. Kenny Calhoun broke up a pass from Turner Gill to Smith to preserve the Miami victory. Pollsters vaulted the Hurricanes to the top spot, giving them their first-ever national crown and making a prophet of Schnellenberger.

"We were trying to win the game," Osborne said afterward. "I don't think you go for a tie in that case."

As the Cornhuskers were lining up for the two-point try, Miami QB Bernie Kosar gathered the offense on the sideline to plan for how the 'Canes were going to respond. But he didn't have to worry. Miami had prevailed.

"The belief never stopped," Brophy said. "That's what was so awesome.

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CITY OF CHAMPIONS

"We went from 'Suntan U' to becoming dominant teams and playing years of Hurricane football."

The Hurricanes' second title in their home city didn't have the same drama, but it had plenty of build-up. Both teams were 11-0, and Oklahoma sat atop the polls, with Miami second when they met on January 1, 1988. The Sooners – who had won the 1985 national title by downing Penn State, 25-10, in the Orange Bowl – were three-point favorites, but the Hurricanes' swarming defense held OU's explosive attack to 255 yards, and QB Steve Walsh tossed a pair of touchdown passes in a title-clinching, 20-14 Hurricane triumph.

The outcome shouldn't have been a surprise. Miami head coach Jimmy Johnson had been a defensive assistant at Oklahoma in the early 1970s when the Sooners installed the wishbone, so he knew how to defend it. The Hurricanes had beaten OU during the 1985 and '86 regular seasons, so they were extremely confident heading into the Orange Bowl.

"Oklahoma tried to run the option on us," Johnson said. "Nebraska did it, too. We were saying that was exactly what we wanted."

For Johnson, the national title brought vindication. His team had dropped bowl games the previous two seasons with championships at stake, including the famous Fiesta Bowl loss to Penn State the previous season.

"That was the most sickening loss I ever had in my career," Johnson said of the Fiesta defeat. "We should have been the better team that night, but they were better. To go undefeated the next year and win the national championship was a great moment and a great relief."

Four years later, the Hurricanes dominated Nebraska, 22-0, to win another national title. They outgained the Huskers, 439-171, and forced four turnovers to complete a perfect, 12-0 season.

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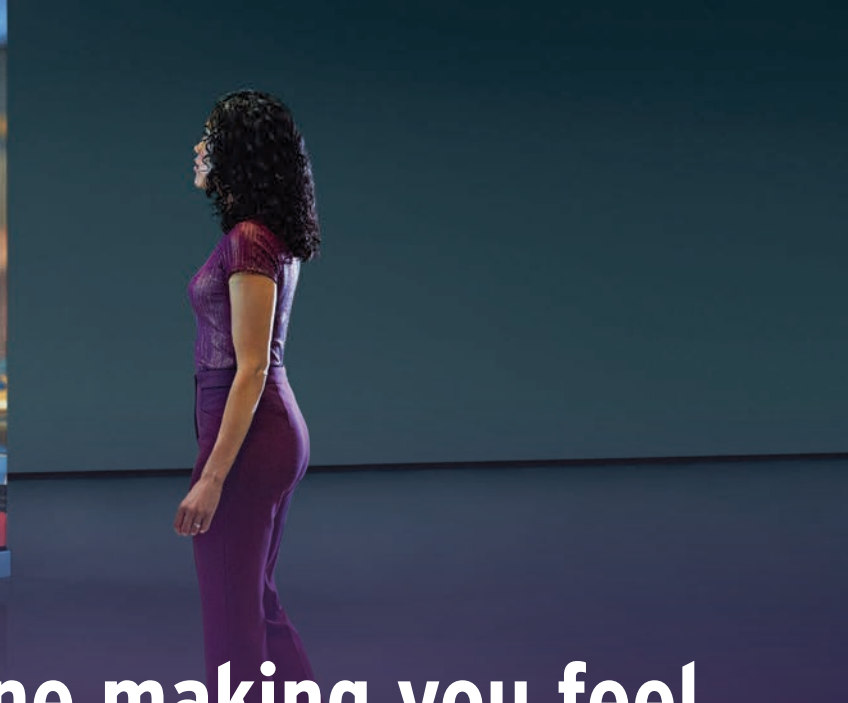

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Patient Information

This summary contains important risk information about **BOTOX**. This brief summary is not comprehensive and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. To learn more, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist. For a copy of the full Prescribing Information, visit www.BOTOX.com or call 1-800-678-1605.

What is the most important information I should know about BOTOX?

BOTOX may cause serious side effects that can be life threatening, including:
- **Problems breathing or swallowing**
- **Spread of toxin effects**

These problems can happen hours, days, to weeks after an injection of BOTOX. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these problems after treatment with BOTOX:
- **Problems swallowing, speaking, or breathing. These problems can happen hours, days, to weeks after an injection of BOTOX** usually because the muscles that you use to breathe and swallow can become weak after the injection. Death can happen as a complication if you have severe problems with swallowing or breathing after treatment with **BOTOX**.
  - People with certain breathing problems may need to use muscles in their neck to help them breathe. These people may be at greater risk for serious breathing problems with **BOTOX**.
  - Swallowing problems may last for several months. People who cannot swallow well may need a feeding tube to receive food and water. If swallowing problems are severe, food or liquids may go into your lungs. People who already have swallowing or breathing problems before receiving **BOTOX** have the highest risk of getting these problems.
- **Spread of toxin effects.** In some cases, the effect of botulinum toxin may affect areas of the body away from the injection site and cause symptoms of a serious condition called botulism. The symptoms of botulism include:
  - loss of strength and muscle weakness all over the body
  - double vision, blurred vision and drooping eyelids
  - hoarseness or change or loss of voice (dysphonia)
  - trouble saying words clearly (dysarthria)
  - loss of bladder control
  - trouble breathing
  - trouble swallowing

These symptoms can happen hours, days, to weeks after you receive an injection of **BOTOX**.

These problems could make it unsafe for you to drive a car or do other dangerous activities. See "What should I avoid while receiving **BOTOX**?"

There has not been a confirmed serious case of spread of toxin effect away from the injection site when **BOTOX** has been used at the recommended dose to treat chronic migraine, severe underarm sweating, blepharospasm, or strabismus.

What is BOTOX?

BOTOX is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles and used:
- to treat overactive bladder symptoms such as a strong need to urinate with leaking or wetting accidents (urge urinary incontinence), a strong need to urinate right away (urgency) and urinating often (frequency) in adults when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to treat leakage of urine (incontinence) in adults with overactive bladder due to neurologic disease when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to treat overactive bladder due to a neurologic disease in children 5 years of age and older when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to prevent headaches in adults with chronic migraine who have 15 or more days each month with headache lasting 4 or more hours each day.
- to treat increased muscle stiffness in people 2 years of age and older with spasticity.
- to treat the abnormal head position and neck pain that happens with cervical dystonia (CD) in adults.
- to treat certain types of eye muscle problems (strabismus) or abnormal spasm of the eyelids (blepharospasm) in people 12 years of age and older.

BOTOX is also injected into the skin to treat the symptoms of severe underarm sweating (severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis) when medicines used on the skin (topical) do not work well enough.

It is not known whether **BOTOX** is safe and effective in people younger than:
- 18 years of age for treatment of overactive bladder with urinary incontinence
- 5 years of age for the treatment of overactive bladder due to a neurologic disease
- 18 years of age for treatment of chronic migraine
- 16 years of age for treatment of cervical dystonia
- 18 years of age for treatment of hyperhidrosis
- 12 years of age for treatment of strabismus or blepharospasm
- 2 years of age for treatment of spasticity

It is not known whether **BOTOX is** safe and effective to prevent headaches in people with migraine who have 14 or fewer headache days each month (episodic migraine).

It is not known whether **BOTOX** is safe and effective for severe sweating anywhere other than your armpits.

Who should not receive BOTOX?

Do not receive **BOTOX** if you:
- are allergic to any of the ingredients in **BOTOX**. See the end of this Consumer Brief Summary for a complete list of ingredients in **BOTOX**.
- had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin product such as Myobloc® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA), Xeomin® (incobotulinumtoxinA), Jeuveau® (prabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Daxxify® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), or Letybo® (letibotulinumtoxinA-wlbg). This may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products.
- have a skin infection at the planned injection site.
- are being treated for urinary incontinence and have a urinary tract infection (UTI).
- are being treated for urinary incontinence and find that you cannot empty your bladder on your own (only applies to people who are not routinely catheterizing).

What should I tell my doctor before receiving BOTOX?

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:
- have a disease that affects your muscles and nerves (such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease], myasthenia gravis or Lambert-Eaton syndrome). See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"
- have allergies to any botulinum toxin product.
- had any side effect from any botulinum toxin product in the past.
- have or have had a breathing problem, such as asthma or emphysema.
- have or have had swallowing problems.
- have or have had bleeding problems.
- have plans to have surgery.
- had surgery on your face.
- have weakness of your forehead muscles, such as trouble raising your eyebrows.
- have drooping eyelids.
- have any other change in the way your face normally looks.
- have symptoms of a urinary tract infection (UTI) and are being treated for urinary incontinence. Symptoms of a urinary tract infection may include pain or burning with urination, frequent urination, or fever.
- have problems emptying your bladder on your own and are being treated for urinary incontinence.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if **BOTOX** can harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if **BOTOX** passes into breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. Using **BOTOX** with certain other medicines may cause serious side effects. **Do not start any new medicines until you have told your doctor that you have received BOTOX in the past.**

Especially tell your doctor if you:
- have received any other botulinum toxin product in the last four months.
- have received injections of botulinum toxin, such as Myobloc® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA), Xeomin® (incobotulinumtoxinA), Jeuveau® (prabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Daxxify®

(daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), or Letybo® (letibotulinumtoxinA-wlbg) in the past. This may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products. Be sure your doctor knows exactly which product you received.
- have recently received an antibiotic by injection.
- take muscle relaxants.
- take an allergy or cold medicine.
- take a sleep medicine.
- take anti-platelets (aspirin-like products) or anti-coagulants (blood thinners).

Ask your doctor if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

How will I receive BOTOX?

- **BOTOX** is an injection that your doctor will give you.
- **BOTOX** is injected into your affected muscles, skin, or bladder.
- Your doctor may change your dose of **BOTOX**, until you and your doctor find the best dose for you.
- **Your doctor will tell you how often you will receive your dose of BOTOX injections.**

What should I avoid while receiving BOTOX?

BOTOX may cause loss of strength or general muscle weakness, vision problems, or dizziness within hours to weeks of taking **BOTOX**. **If this happens, do not drive a car, operate machinery, or do other dangerous activities.** See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"

What are the possible side effects of BOTOX?

BOTOX can cause serious side effects. See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"

Other side effects of BOTOX include:
- dry mouth.
- discomfort or pain at the injection site.
- tiredness.
- headache.
- neck pain.
- eye problems: double vision, blurred vision, decreased eyesight, drooping eyelids, swelling of your eyelids, and dry eyes.
- drooping eyebrows.
- urinary tract infection in both children and adults being treated for urinary incontinence.
- painful urination in adults being treated for urinary incontinence.
- bacteria, white blood cells, and blood in the urine of children being treated for urinary incontinence.
- inability to empty your bladder on your own and are being treated for urinary incontinence. If you have difficulty fully emptying your bladder after getting **BOTOX**, you may need to use disposable self-catheters to empty your bladder up to a few times each day until your bladder is able to start emptying again.
- allergic reactions. Symptoms of an allergic reaction to **BOTOX** may include: itching, rash, red itchy welts, wheezing, asthma symptoms, or dizziness or feeling faint. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you are wheezing or have asthma symptoms, or if you become dizzy or faint.
- upper respiratory tract infection.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of **BOTOX**. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of BOTOX:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. This Consumer Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about **BOTOX**. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about **BOTOX** that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in BOTOX?

Active ingredient: onabotulinumtoxinA

Inactive ingredients: human albumin and sodium chloride

Manufactured by: AbbVie Inc.
1 N Waukegan Rd. North Chicago, IL 60064
U.S. License Number 1889

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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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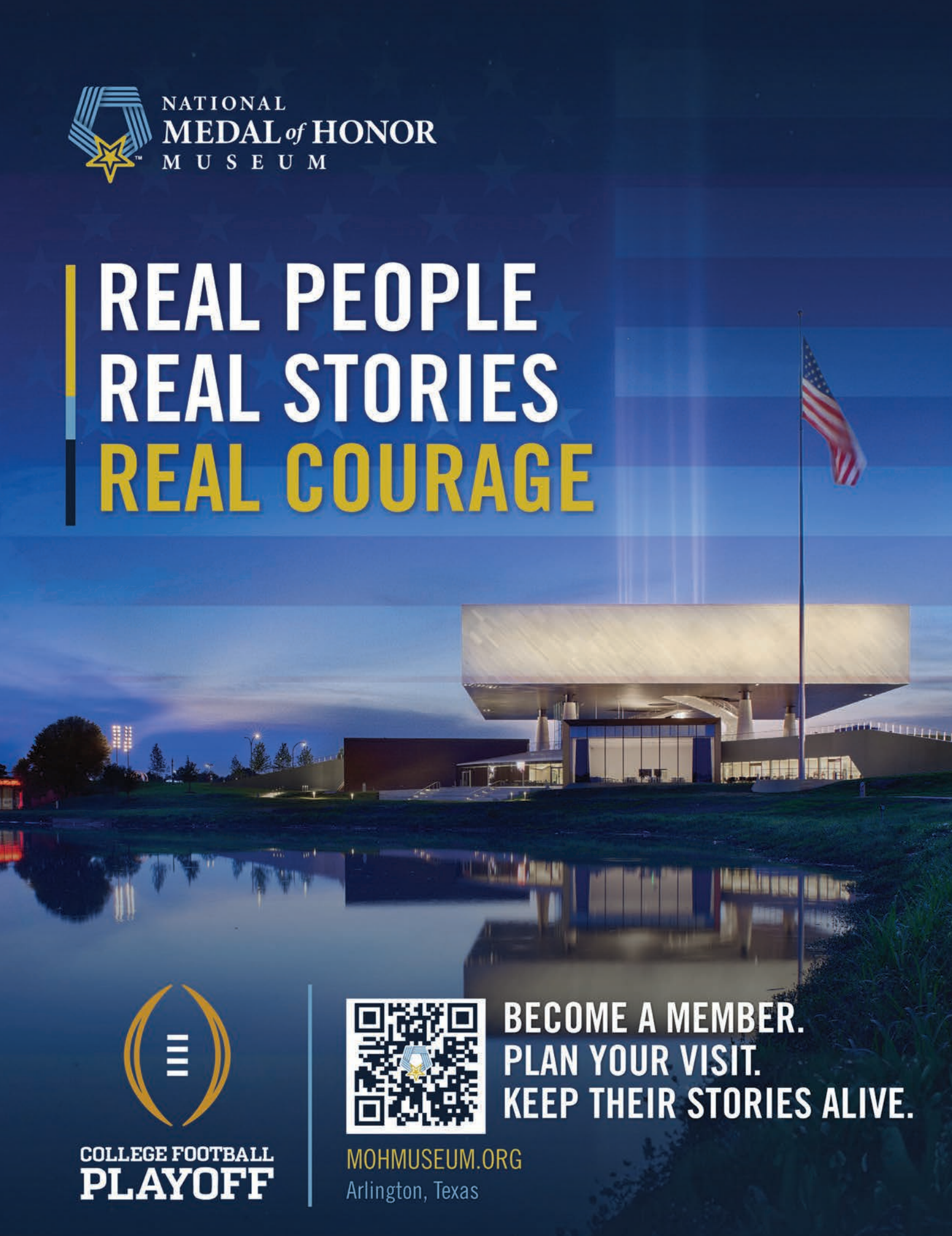
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2011

October

With the fourth Bowl Championship Series (BCS) four-year term set to conclude after the 2013-2014 season, the commissioners began creating a process for considering possible formats for the future. The Presidential Oversight Committee members addressed the matter further in their in-person meeting in Denver on November 14.

2012

During the winter and spring, the commissioners and presidents spent countless hours evaluating the many pros and cons of numerous possible formats. These formats ranged from returning to the old bowl system with no attempt to match the top two teams, to continuing the BCS, to creating a multi-team tournament.

The commissioners affirmed a commitment to protect college football's regular season, the best in sports, and to preserve the bowl tradition and the bowl experience for student-athletes. Further, they focused on the realities of the academic calendar and options related to where the games should be played. They self-imposed a deadline of the summer of 2012 to decide what changes to propose to the presidents.

April 25

At a meeting in Hollywood, Florida, the commissioners took both an eight-team and a 16-team playoff off the table. They prepared a small number of four-team options for discussion in the conference meetings to be held in May. They discussed in detail the advantages and disadvantages of various ways to rank or qualify teams.

June 12-13

The commissioners met in Chicago to report on the consensus regarding the playoff that was developed during their recent conference meetings.

June 20

Meeting again in Chicago, the commissioners voted unanimously to recommend a four-team playoff for 12 years beginning in 2014-15, with a selection committee choosing the participating teams.

June 26

At a meeting in Washington, D.C., the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to submit legislation to the NCAA Board of Directors that would allow two institutions to participate in two postseason games each year—thereby creating what eventually would be named the College Football Playoff. The presidential group adopted the format and policies that had been recommended by the commissioners on June 20.

The NCAA would approve the proposal in August.

The presidents and chancellors also endorsed:

- Rotating the Playoff Semifinal games among six bowl sites and playing the national championship game at neutral sites under the management of the conferences;
- Creating a selection committee that would rank the teams to play, giving all the teams an equal opportunity to participate (Among the factors the committee would be instructed to value were win-loss record, strength of schedule, head-to-head results, and whether a team is a conference champion);
- Playing the Playoff Semifinals New Year's Eve or New Year's Day;
- Creating "Championship Monday" by setting the date of the national championship game on the first Monday in January that is six or more days after the Playoff Semifinals;
- Establishing the new format to cover a 12-year term, from the 2014-15 season through the 2025-26 season;
- Distributing revenue from the playoff according to a formula that (a) rewards conferences for success on the field, (b) accommodates teams' expenses, (c) acknowledges marketplace factors, (d) rewards academic performance of student-athletes, and (e) eliminates the "automatic qualification" designation.

September 19

- The commissioners agreed to select the host for the first national championship game only, and to choose future hosts later.

November 12

- In a Denver meeting, the presidents and chancellors unanimously approved the format that called for a stand-alone national championship game and Playoff Semifinals rotating evenly among three contract bowls and three other bowls over the 12 years. The group also took the following actions:
- Adopted a revenue-distribution plan and agreed to review it after four years to determine whether the allocations should be revised;
- Agreed that the academic pool would be distributed through the conferences or processed directly to the independent institutions;
- Guaranteed a spot in one of the six bowls to the highest-ranked champion from the Big East (later became the American), Conference USA, Mid-American, Mountain West and Sun Belt conferences, as determined by the selection committee, when such champion does not qualify to play in one of the Playoff Semifinals;
- Confirmed that the media rights would cover 12 national championship games, 24 Playoff Semifinals and 24 host bowls;
- Supported the concept of not having a title sponsor for the national championship game;
- Decided that the Rose and Sugar bowls would host Playoff Semifinals in the same year; Orange Bowl and Host 1 in the same year; and Host 2 and Host 3 in the same year.
- Agreed that the champion of a contract-bowl conference that is displaced by the Playoff Semifinals will play in one of the host bowls;
- Voted to create a limited liability corporation (LLC) to manage the event, with the presidents and chancellors serving as the Board of Managers.

November 14

The Presidential Oversight Committee named Bill Hancock Executive Director. Hancock had been Executive Director of the BCS for three years. He had become BCS administrator in October 2005.

November 18

Michael Kelly was named Chief Operating Officer.

November 21

The group and ESPN reached an agreement in principle for ESPN to present the games for 12 years on an exclusive basis across its platforms. The agreement included the national championship game and Playoff Semifinals, as well as other bowl games that would be a part of the rotation to host the Playoff Semifinals.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ON ESPN

CHRONOLOGY

2013

January 8
During a meeting in Miami, the commissioners unanimously agreed that the new event would launch with Playoff Semifinals on January 1, 2015, in the Rose and Sugar bowls. The group also agreed that the Orange Bowl and a yet-to-be-named bowl would host the Playoff Semifinals in the second year. The hosts in the third year were also yet to be named.

January 14
Hancock and Kelly opened a temporary headquarters in the Conference USA suite of offices in Irving, Texas.

February 5
Reid Sigmon was named Chief Financial Officer.

February 7
The management committee unanimously agreed to implement a philanthropic program when the new structure began. It also decided that the new event warranted a new trophy.

March 13
CFP Administration, LLC, a limited liability company, was organized to manage the administrative operation of the College Football Playoff. Under its operating agreement, members of the company were the 10 Football Bowl Subdivision conferences and Notre Dame. The company would be governed by a board of managers, consisting of a university president or chancellor nominated by each member. Day-to-day operations of the company were to be managed by a management committee, consisting of the FBS commissioners and the Notre Dame athletics director.

April 23
The name "College Football Playoff" was adopted for the new event and was announced in a news conference in Pasadena. Also, the group invited fans to choose the logo through an online voting process.

Vote for the New Playoff Logo!
It's Your Playoff. It's Your Choice.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

April 24
Cowboys Stadium (now AT&T Stadium) in Arlington, Texas, was named to host the first national championship game of the new era. Also, the Fiesta, Cotton and Peach bowls were selected to be part of the Playoff Semifinal host rotation. The management committee established the following

Playoff Semifinal rotation: year 1

Rose and Sugar; year 2

Orange and Cotton; year 3

Peach and Fiesta. Also, it was agreed that, for the sake of consistency, the name of a bowl participating in the arrangement should include specific wording, either traditional or descriptive of the local culture, in addition to the title sponsor's name.

April 25
The management committee formulated plans for the selection committee, including: (1) it would be comprised of no more than 18 members; (2) each conference would be invited to nominate prospective members; (3) the management committee would choose the members and their terms, and also the chair; (4) committee members would not receive honoraria but would receive expense reimbursement; (5) members would serve three-year terms, with selected individuals' terms being two or four years initially until a rotation were achieved; and (6) members would not be eligible for re-election after their terms expire.

April 29
Over 101,600 fans participating in an online ballot chose the "gold football" as the CFP's official logo.

May 7
The board agreed to locate the headquarters for CFP Administration LLC in Irving, Texas, in The Summit building. The office would open August 5.

June 18
The management committee decided several matters related to the selection committee, including: (1) members would fall into one of five classifications: sitting athletics directors, and persons with experience as coaches, student-athletes, administrators and journalists; (2) persons currently working for media agencies, or serving as commentators in any media, are not eligible to serve; (3) five slots would go to athletics directors from the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC and Pac-12; (4) each nominee for the committee must be approved by unanimous consent of the management committee; and (5) committee members would not be expected to attend games in person and the CFP would not reimburse expenses for those who do attend games.

October 16
Membership of the first selection committee was announced at a news conference at the CFP headquarters in Irving, Texas. The 13 members were Barry Alvarez, athletics director, Wisconsin; Mike Gould, former superintendent, Air Force Academy; Pat Haden, athletics director, Southern California; Tom Jernstedt, former NCAA executive vice president; Jeff Long (chair), vice chancellor and athletics director, Arkansas; Oliver Luck, athletics director, West Virginia; Archie Manning, former student-athlete, Mississippi; Tom Osborne, former athletics director and coach, Nebraska; Dan Radakovich, athletics director, Clemson; Condoleezza Rice, former provost, Stanford; Mike Tranghese, former commissioner, Big East Conference; Steve Wieberg, former journalist, USA Today; Tyrone Willingham, former head coach, Stanford, Notre Dame and Washington.

November 10
The board of managers authorized creation of the CFP Foundation.

November 11
The selection committee met for the first time, in Washington, D.C. The members reviewed the proposed protocol and conducted an exercise on assigning teams to bowl sites.

December 16
Arizona and Tampa Bay were named to host the national championship games in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

2014

January 6
The CFP honored former SEC commissioner Roy Kramer during pregame festivities at the final BCS national championship game in Pasadena.

April 30
It was determined that the selection committee would compile rankings seven times during the season, including selection Sunday. The rankings were to be announced Tuesday evenings beginning October 28. Also, the committee's recusal policy and voting procedures were announced.

May 1
The group formally launched its philanthropic initiative, Extra Yard for Teachers, to honor and support teachers nationally and in the communities that host the College Football Playoff National Championship.

July 14
The new College Football Playoff National Championship trophy was unveiled.

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CHRONOLOGY

October 8-9
The CFP conducted mock selection exercises with representatives of the media, and, two weeks later, with ESPN announcers, producers and directors. In later years, it would add exercises for other groups, such as athletics directors, representatives of bowls, conference offices and other partners.

October 28
The selection committee convened in Grapevine, Texas, and issued its first rankings.

December 7
The selection committee selected Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State to compete in the first College Football Playoff.

2015

January 1
In the first Playoff Semifinals of the CFP era, Oregon defeated Florida State and Ohio State defeated Alabama.

January 6
The management committee and board of managers unanimously agreed to defray costs for student-athletes' parents or guardians to travel to the site of the CFP National Championship.

January 12
Ohio State defeated Oregon in the first CFP National Championship at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

February 9
Texas Tech athletics director Kirby Hocutt was named to the selection committee, replacing Oliver Luck, who had taken a position in the NCAA national office.

March 27
Former Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson was named to the selection committee, replacing Archie Manning, who had stepped down.

May 20
Sports Business Journal named the College Football Playoff its "event of the year."

June 16
Noting that the Army-Navy game would be played six days after Selection Day, the management committee unanimously agreed that, if the Army-Navy result may affect Army's or Navy's placement or seeding in a Playoff Semifinal or one of the other bowls that the committee would fill, only the pairings that affect Army or Navy would be delayed so the committee can consider the result of the Army-Navy game.

July 16
Britton Banowsky was named Executive Director of the CFP Foundation.

July 30
In light of a new NCAA policy allowing it, the management committee and board of managers unanimously agreed to defray costs for student-athletes' parents or guardians to travel to the sites of the Playoff Semifinals in addition to the national championship game.

November 4
The CFP selected Atlanta, the Bay Area and New Orleans to host the national championship games at the conclusion of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 regular seasons, respectively.

2016

January 11
C. Max Nikias, president of the University of Southern California, was named chair of the board of managers.

January 21
Jeff Bower, Lloyd Carr, Herb Deromedi and Rob Mullens were appointed to the selection committee.

January 28
Kirby Hocutt was named chair of the selection committee.

July 28
The management committee moved the Playoff Semifinals in years 5, 6, 11 and 12 of the CFP rotation to Saturdays. With the adjustment, all Playoff Semifinals through 2026 would be played on Saturdays or holidays.

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CHRONOLOGY

2017

January 17
Frank Beamer, Chris Howard and Gene Smith were appointed to the selection committee.

November 1
The CFP chose Miami, Indianapolis, Los Angeles and Houston to host the national championship games at the conclusion of the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 regular seasons, respectively.

2018

January 17
The management committee named Rob Mullens chair of the selection committee. Paola Boivin, Joe Castiglione, Ken Hatfield, Ronnie Lott, Todd Stansbury and Scott Stricklin were appointed to the committee.

July 17
Andrea Williams became the CFP's chief operating officer after Michael Kelly was named athletics director at the University of South Florida.

August 16
The board of managers unanimously elected Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum as its chair.

2019

January 16
Terry Mohajir, Ray Odierno and R. C. Slocum were appointed to the selection committee.

February 9
The management committee appointed Iowa athletics director Gary Barta to the selection committee, replacing Gene Smith, who had stepped down.

2020

January 22
The management committee named Gary Barta chairman of the selection committee. Tom Burman, Rick George and John Urschel were appointed to serve on the committee.

August 5
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the management committee moved Selection Day from December 6 to December 20 after a number of conferences moved their championship games to December 12 and 18-19. In addition, the management committee announced that teams would arrive at the Playoff Semifinals and national championship game two days before the game—i.e., Saturday before a Monday game. The other New Year's Six bowls adopted a similar schedule for the 2020-21 bowl season.

August 13
The management committee added one additional year to the term of Paola Boivin's service on the selection committee. Boivin was originally scheduled to rotate off the selection committee after the 2021 national championship game.

September 11
The CFP suspended for one year Playoff Fan Central, Playoff Playlist Live! and other in-person events traditionally held at the national championship game because of the pandemic.

September 30
The selection committee's first meeting of the season was moved to November 23-24.

December 19
The CFP and Tournament of Roses announced that, given the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Southern California, the Playoff Semifinal previously scheduled to be played at the Rose Bowl Stadium would be played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on January 1, 2021.

2021

January 26
Mitch Barnhart, Boo Corrigan, Chris Del Conte, Will Shields and Joe Taylor were appointed to the selection committee.

March 4
The management committee appointed Georgia State athletics director Charlie Cobb to the selection committee, replacing Terry Mohajir, who had taken the athletics director job at UCF.

April 22
At its annual spring meeting, the management committee heard a report from the working group

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CHRONOLOGY

that had been considering options for possible future formats.

After the same meeting, Hancock said the CFP intended to return to the traditional pageantry of college football for the CFP games in 2021-22.

June 10
An internal working group appointed by the management committee presented a proposal to change the four-team CFP format to a 12-team event. The four members of the working group (Big 12 Conference Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey, Mountain West Conference Commissioner Craig Thompson, and Notre Dame Athletics Director Jack Swarbrick) presented their recommendation during a virtual meeting of the full management committee after meeting over a two-year period to discuss possible new formats.

June 16
The management committee appointed former Notre Dame tight end/linebacker Rod West to the selection committee, replacing Ray Odierno, who stepped down for health reasons.

June 17-18
Meeting in Chicago, the management committee reviewed and discussed the working group's proposed 12-team playoff format. The management committee unanimously agreed to ask the board of managers to authorize feasibility assessments and the solicitation of feedback from groups that would include student-athletes, athletics directors, faculty, coaches, university presidents and chancellors, bowls and ESPN about the details of the 12-team proposal.

June 22
Meeting in Dallas, the board of managers heard a presentation from the management committee about the recommendation for a 12-team format. The board authorized the management committee to review the proposal with their constituents (e.g., presidents, athletics directors, faculty, coaches and student-athletes) during the summer.

July 7
The management committee appointed former head coach Tyrone Willingham to the selection committee to complete the final year of the term of R.C. Slocum, who stepped down for health reasons.

August 4
The management committee appointed Kansas State athletics director Gene Taylor to the selection committee, replacing Chris Del Conte.

December 20
Byron Hatch became the CFP's chief operating officer after Andrea Williams was named chief experience officer for the Utah Jazz.

December 22
The management committee announced COVID-19 policies for the upcoming postseason. If a team was unavailable to play in a Playoff Semifinal, the game would be declared a forfeit and its opponent would advance. If both teams were unavailable to play, the game would be declared a "no contest" and the winning team from the other Playoff Semifinal would be declared the CFP National Champion. If three teams were unavailable to play in the Playoff Semifinal, the remaining team would be declared the CFP National Champion. If a team's unavailability was determined after the Playoff Semifinals, the national championship game may be rescheduled to no later than January 14. If one team was able to play and the other was not and the game could not be played, then the team that was unable to play shall forfeit the game and the other team would be declared the CFP National Champion.

2022

January 25
The management committee named NC State athletics director Boo Corrigan chairman of the selection committee. Chet Gladchuk, Jim Grobe, Warde Manuel and Kelly Whiteside were appointed to the selection committee.

February 18
The board of managers accepted a recommendation from the management committee to continue the current four-team playoff for the next four years, as called for in the CFP's original 12-year plan.

August 15
The CFP announced Miami as the host of the 2026 national championship game at the conclusion of the 2025 regular season.

August 16
The CFP announced Atlanta as the host of the 2025 national championship game at the conclusion of the 2024 regular season.

September 2
The board of managers unanimously voted to expand the current four-team playoff into a 12-team playoff. The new format, consistent with a proposal the board of managers reviewed in the fall and winter of 2021-22, was to begin for the 2026 college football regular season. The board of managers tasked the management committee with assessing the possibility of beginning the expanded playoff in either the 2024 or 2025 regular season.

December 1
The board of managers unanimously agreed to begin the newly-expanded 12-team playoff in the postseason after the 2024 regular season. The first round in 2024 would take place the week ending Saturday, December 21, at either the home field of the higher-seeded team or at another site designated by the higher-seed institution (No. 12 at No. 5, No. 11 at No. 6, No. 10 at No. 7, and No. 9 at No. 8.) The 2024-25 Playoff Quarterfinals would take place in the Fiesta, Peach, Rose and Sugar bowls, while the Cotton and Orange bowls would host the Playoff Semifinals. The 2025-26 Playoff Quarterfinals would take place in the Cotton, Orange, Rose and Sugar bowls, while the Fiesta and Peach bowls would host the Playoff Semifinals. The national championship games were scheduled to be played January 20, 2025, in Atlanta, and January 19, 2026, in Miami.

2023

March 1
Chris Ault, Jennifer Cohen and David Sayler were appointed to the selection committee.

June 21
CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock announced that he will step down when his contract expired February 1, 2025.

September 4
The management committee appointed Utah athletics director Mark Harlan to the selection committee, replacing Jennifer Cohen.

November 10
Lieutenant General Richard M. Clark was named the new executive director of the CFP, replacing Bill Hancock.

2024

February 2
The management committee named Michigan athletics director Warde Manuel chairman of the selection committee. Patrick Chun, Randall McDaniel, Gary Pinkel, Mack Rhoades, Carla Williams, and Hunter Yurachek were appointed to serve on the committee.

February 20
The board of managers revised the qualifying criteria for the 12-team playoff to include the five highest-ranked conference champions, plus the next seven highest-ranked teams as determined by the selection committee.

March 19
The CFP extended its exclusive media rights agreement with ESPN through the 2031-32 season.

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CHRONOLOGY

May 3
The management committee appointed Mike Riley to the selection committee, replacing Pat Chun.

May 22
ESPN and TNT Sports announced a five-year agreement for TNT Sports to sublicense select CFP games from ESPN. TNT Sports would present two first-round games during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 postseasons. In addition to the first-round games, TNT Sports will add two Playoff Quarterfinals each year beginning with the 2026-27 season through the 2028-29 season.

June 3
Rich Clark officially began in his role as executive director of the CFP.

December 8
The selection committee revealed its first 12-team bracket with Oregon, Georgia, Boise State and Arizona State the top four seeds that earned byes to the Playoff Quarterfinal round.

December 20
In the first CFP game to be played on campus, Notre Dame defeated Indiana in the CFP First Round. The following day, Penn State defeated SMU, Texas defeated Clemson, and Ohio State defeated Tennessee.

2025

January 1
Following an early morning terrorist attack in New Orleans, the CFP and Allstate Sugar Bowl postponed the Playoff Quarterfinal between Notre Dame and Georgia to January 2.

January 20
Ohio State defeated Notre Dame in the first national championship game in the 12-team CFP era.

January 24
The CFP announced Las Vegas as the host of the 2027 national championship game at the conclusion of the 2026-27 season.

March 4
The management committee named Baylor athletics director Mack Rhoades chairman of the selection committee. Mark Dantonio, Damon Evans, Ivan Maisel, Chris Massaro, Wesley Walls and Steve Wieberg (one-year term) were appointed to serve on the committee.

May 5
The management committee appointed Troy Dannen and Jeff Long (one-year term) to the selection committee, replacing Damon Evans and Steve Wieberg, respectively.

May 22
The management committee unanimously voted to modify the seeding and bye policies of the 12-team playoff for the 2025-26 season. The new policy guarantees the five highest-ranked conference champions a place in the playoff, but no longer includes a bye for the four highest-ranked champions. The 12-team bracket will be seeded directly based on the final ranking of the selection committee, with the four highest-ranked schools receiving a first-round bye. If one or more of the five highest-ranked conference champions are ranked outside the top 12, that team(s) would move up to the 12th seed, or 11th seed, based on the number of champions outside the top 12.

October 1
The CFP announced New Orleans as the host of the 2028 national championship game at the conclusion of the 2027 regular season.

October 20
Randall McDaniel stepped away from his role on the CFP Selection Committee for the 2025 season for personal reasons.

October 29
The CFP announced Tampa Bay as the host of the 2029 national championship game at the conclusion of the 2028 regular season.

November 13
The management committee named Arkansas athletics director Hunter Yurachek chairman of the selection committee, replacing Mack Rhoades who stepped down from the committee for personal reasons. In addition, Mark Harlan, Utah athletics director, was appointed to the selection committee to replace Rhoades.

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2027

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INCHES

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BASE HEIGHT

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INCHES

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GOVERNANCE

THE COMPANY

CFP Administration, LLC, manages the administration operations of the College Football Playoff. Members of the company are the 10 FBS conferences (American Athletic, Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12, Conference USA, Mid-American, Mountain West, Pac-12, Southeastern and Sun Belt) and the University of Notre Dame.

CFP BOARD OF MANAGERS

(11 UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS)

The company's business, property and affairs are governed by the Board of Managers. The board develops, reviews and approves annual budgets, policies and operating guidelines. It also appoints and removes officers of the company. It has authority over all aspects of the company's operations.

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President, New Mexico

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President, Buffalo

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(10 CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS AND NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS DIRECTOR)

The Management Committee manages the day-to-day operations of the College Football Playoff. It has authority over those aspects of the CFP's operations that are not reserved exclusively for the board, but all of its decisions are subject to review by the board.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

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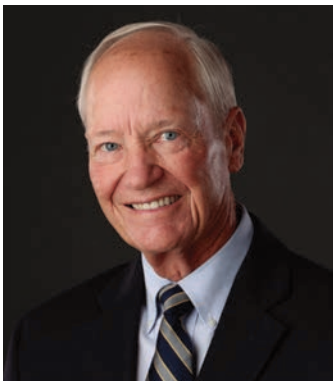

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PLAYOFF FIRST ROUND

PATH THROUGH THE PLAYOFF

Friday, December 19, 2025
Gaylord Family - Oklahoma Memorial Stadium | Norman, Oklahoma

NO. 9 ALABAMA 34

NO. 8 OKLAHOMA 24

Ty Simpson passed for 232 yards and two touchdowns, and No. 9 seed Alabama rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat No. 8 Oklahoma 34-24 on Friday night in the first round of the College Football Playoff.

Alabama freshman Lotzeir Brooks, who did not score a touchdown in the regular season, scored two and had season highs of five catches and 79 yards. DeBoer claimed his first playoff victory for the Crimson Tide since arriving from Washington two years ago.

Oklahoma's John Mateer passed for 307 yards and two touchdowns, but he threw a costly interception that Alabama's Zabien Brown returned 50 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. Deion Burks had seven catches for 107 yards and a score for the Sooners (10-3).

Oklahoma's Tate Sandell, the Lou Groza Award winner for the nation's best kicker, tied an FBS single-season record for most made field goals of 50 or more yards with his eighth.

Alabama, which went three-and-out on its first three possessions, finally got its offense going midway through the second quarter when Simpson hit Brooks for a 10-yard score to trim Oklahoma's lead to 17-7. Later in the quarter, Brown's interception return tied the score at 17.

Brooks caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Simpson early in the third quarter to give Alabama its first lead.

Burks caught a 37-yard touchdown pass from Mateer two plays into the fourth quarter to cut Alabama's lead to 27-24.

With Alabama up 34-24, Sandell missed from 36 yards with just under three minutes remaining to end his streak. He missed again from 51 yards out with a little over a minute to play.

Malachi Toney's tiebreaking 11-yard touchdown reception with less than two minutes left lifted No. 10 seed Miami to a 10-3 victory over No. 7 Texas A&M on Saturday in the College Football Playoff.

Mark Fletcher Jr. had a career-high 172 yards rushing to help the Hurricanes (11-2) advance to the Cotton Bowl.

Toney's big play came a series after what looked a devastating mistake for the freshman. Toney made a reception, but Dalton Brooks knocked the ball out and Daymion Sanford recovered it on the Texas A&M 47 with about seven minutes to go.

He and Miami's offense got another chance when Rueben Bain Jr. sacked Marcel Reed on two of three plays on the ensuing drive to force a punt.

A career-long 56-yard run by Fletcher on the first play of the next drive got the Hurricanes to the Texas A&M 30 with about three minutes to go. Miami used four more runs by Fletcher to get into scoring position before Toney took the short toss from Carson Beck and dashed into the end zone.

The Aggies had a chance to tie it after that, but Bryce Fitzgerald intercepted a pass for the second time — this time in the end zone — to end it.

The Hurricanes used a suffocating defensive performance to stifle Texas A&M's powerful offense. They harassed Reed into a mistake-filled performance that included a first-quarter fumble along with the interceptions.

After getting the last at-large bid in the playoff, the Hurricanes move on, with a chance to win their first national championship since 2001 in their first appearance in the CFP.

Saturday, December 20, 2025
Kyle Field | College Station, Texas

NO. 10 MIAMI 10

NO. 7 TEXAS A&M 3

Trinidad Chambliss ran for two touchdowns and passed for another, and No. 6 Ole Miss looked unfazed by the defection of coach Lane Kiffin, beating No. 11 Tulane 41-10 on Saturday in the first round of the College Football Playoff.

Scoring runs of 20 yards by Kewan Lacy and 4 yards by Chambliss gave Ole Miss (12-1) a 14-0 lead before eight minutes had elapsed in the coaching debut of Pete Golding, who was promoted from defensive coordinator after Kiffin left for LSU on Nov. 30.

Tulane (11-3) and quarterback Jake Retzlaff moved the ball effectively at times, but the Rebels — who beat the Green Wave 45-10 on Sept. 20 — remained comfortably ahead throughout. Cornerback Jaylon Braxton had an early interception, and the Rebels' defense had multiple fumble recoveries and fourth-down stops.

Chambliss, who briefly left the game late in the first half after a big hit during an 11-yard scramble, finished with 282 yards passing. Lacy rushed for 87 yards before heading to the locker room in the fourth quarter with an apparent left shoulder injury. De'Zhaun Stribling caught five passes for 79 yards, including a 13-yard TD.

LSU transfer Logan Diggs added a 3-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Saturday, December 20, 2025
Vaught-Hemingway Stadium | Oxford, Mississippi

NO. 6 OLE MISS 41

NO. 11 TULANE 10

Retzlaff finished with 306 yards passing and a TD for Tulane, whose loss dropped non-power conference teams to 0-3 in CFP games (with James Madison playing at Oregon later Saturday night). Jamauri McClure gained 84 yards on 15 carries.

Dante Moore threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score and No. 5 Oregon beat No. 12 James Madison 51-34 on Saturday night in a College Football Playoff opener. Oregon won a playoff game for the first time since 2014, when the Ducks beat Florida State in the Rose Bowl semifinal before losing to Ohio State.

Moore completed a 41-yard touchdown pass to Jamari Johnson less than two minutes into the game to give Oregon a lead it would not relinquish. Johnson hauled in Moore's pass with his right hand, and romped into the end zone while dragging a pair of defenders.

Saturday, December 20, 2025
Autzen Stadium | Eugene, Oregon

NO. 5 OREGON 51

NO. 12 JAMES MADISON 34

James Madison responded with a 30-yard field goal from Morgan Suarez on its next drive, one which required 15 plays and burned 8:03. The Ducks took over from there, rattling off four straight touchdowns before the Dukes snuck in another field goal from Suarez ahead of halftime, which brought the score to 34-6.

In falling behind by such a wide margin, James Madison went away from its rushing attack, which ranked fifth in the nation in average yards per game entering the evening. Sun Belt Player of the Year Alonza Barnett III completed 23 of 48 passes, including a 47-yard touchdown pass to Nick DeGennaro on James Madison's first drive of the third quarter.

Oregon promptly responded with two touchdowns, including wide receiver Malik Benson's second TD and a blocked punt that Jayden Limar scooped and returned 15 yards for a score. James Madison scored the last three touchdowns.

The victory was the Ducks' seventh straight since losing to No. 1 Indiana 30-20 on Oct. 11.

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL AT THE

COTTON BOWL

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 | AT&T Stadium | Arlington, Texas

NO. 10 MIAMI 24

NO. 2 OHIO STATE 14

Keionte Scott peeked over at the Miami sideline to see the reaction of his teammates as he sprinted 72 yards untouched for a touchdown returning an interception against defending national champion Ohio State.

They certainly were excited, as were a Pro Football Hall of Fame receiver and a former coach who won national championships with the Hurricanes.

Scott picked off a screen pass by Heisman Trophy finalist Julian Sayin, Carson Beck threw a touchdown pass and 10th-ranked Miami shocked the Buckeyes 24-14 on Wednesday night at the Cotton Bowl in the first College Football Playoff quarterfinal.

"I was full of emotions. ... That was a pretty cool moment," said Scott, who has TD returns on both of his interceptions this season. "Just having fun. ... That's what this team relies on, man, just going out there playing free and just having fun."

The Hurricanes (12-2, CFP No. 10 seed) won two playoff games to get into football's final four after needing an at-large berth to make the 12-team field, after not even playing in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game. One more win and they will get to play for a national championship in their home stadium.

There hasn't been a national title for "The U" since 2001, when Cristobal was a standout offensive tackle for the Hurricanes and part of his second championship there. The Hurricanes were denied a repeat the following season with a double-overtime loss in the Fiesta Bowl to Ohio State, the only other time the teams met in a bowl — and the last Miami played in that game.

"It is 100% not about me. I'm part of their team, I'm a part of that family," Cristobal said. "It is my obligation as a former Miami Hurricane player and all the things that Miami did for my brother and I to do my best to try to provide these guys with even better opportunities so they can fulfill all the great things they are destined for."

Before receiver Michael Irvin and coach Jimmy Johnson were Super Bowl champions with the Dallas Cowboys, they were part of the Hurricanes' 1987 national championship. Irvin excitedly ran down the sideline while Scott was scoring for a 14-0 lead, and Johnson was nearby when acknowledged by Cristobal during the on-field trophy presentation.

Scott's interception return came only 1:42 after Beck's quick pass to Mark Fletcher Jr. out of the backfield for a 9-yard score.

Beck, who was part of Georgia's national titles in 2021 and 2022 when Stetson Bennett was the starter, completed 19 of 26 passes for 138 yards.

When asked what stood out to him about these Hurricanes, Beck said, "Just the way that this team has responded to adversity. We knew coming into today that it wasn't going to be easy."

The TD throw to Fletcher, who also ran 19 times for 90 yards and was the game's Offensive Player of the Game, was the seventh of 13 consecutive completions for Beck. That set a record in the Cotton Bowl, which was played for the 90th time.

Sayin, a freshman backup behind Will Howard for Ohio State's national championship run last season, was 22 of 35 for 287 yards with two interceptions and a TD to Jeremiah Smith. Sayin was sacked five times.

AP All-America receiver Smith, the Miami native, caught seven of those passes for 157 yards, including a 14-yard TD on a fourth down in the fourth quarter.

Carter Davis added a 49-yard field goal in the third quarter and ChaMar Brown ran for a 5-yard TD in the game's final minute for the Hurricanes, whose 24 points were the most Ohio State gave up this season.

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL AT THE

ORANGE BOWL

Thursday, January 1, 2026 | Hard Rock Stadium | Miami Gardens, Florida

NO. 5 OREGON 23

NO. 4 TEXAS TECH 0

Matayo Uiagalelei caused a fumble to set up an Oregon touchdown, freshman Brandon Finney Jr. had three takeaways — two interceptions and a fumble recovery — and the fifth-seeded Ducks silenced No. 4 Texas Tech's offense for a 23-0 win in the College Football Playoff quarterfinal at the Orange Bowl on Thursday.

"They've earned this opportunity," Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. "I told them go get their pound of flesh today. They did that today."

Jordon Davison rushed for two scores, Moore threw for 234 yards and Atticus Sappington kicked three field goals for Oregon.

"I believe we have the best defense in the country," Finney said.

Texas Tech — which finished at 12-2 — came into the day second nationally in points per game (42.5) and fifth nationally in yards per game (480.3) but got absolutely nothing going. The Red Raiders turned the ball over four times, were stopped on fourth downs three other times and had four three-and-outs.

"Texas Tech fans, I'm sorry that we let you down," coach Joey McGuire said. "I hope you've enjoyed every second of this year. Man, this was such a special team and I'm so proud of them. Hats off to Dan Lanning. Hats off to the Oregon Ducks. Just an incredible football team ... and I told Dan after the game I hope he wins the whole damn thing."

Tech quarterback Behren Morton — who finished 18 of 32 passing for just 137 yards — was stripped by Uiagalelei early in the third quarter in Red Raider territory. Uiagalelei rumbled deep into the red zone and Davison

scored one play later to make it 13-0.

Morton threw a red-zone interception early in the fourth quarter and a fourth-down stop from their own 30 midway through the fourth quarter doomed whatever comeback chances existed for the Red Raiders. Davison plunged in from the 1 with 16 seconds left to cap the scoring.

"We had a great game plan," Morton said. "We just didn't execute base plays."

It was the sixth quarterfinal under this 12-team format that started last year — there were two others coming later Thursday — and the sixth time that the team coming off an extended break lost to a team that played a first-round game.

In 2024, Boise State (against Penn State), Arizona State (against Texas), Georgia (against Notre Dame) and Oregon (against Ohio State) all went out in the quarterfinals after first-round byes. Miami added to that list Wednesday night, beating Ohio State in a quarterfinal at the Cotton Bowl. In those six games, including Thursday, the team with the bye has held the lead for less than five minutes — combined — of regulation.

Texas Tech thought it could avoid that fate. It could not, and Oregon finished off its first shutout of an AP-ranked opponent since 2012. Oregon was playing a top-10 team for the 113th time — and for the first time, allowed zero points.

Oregon played James Madison in Round 1 this year, winning 51-34, and generally was unhappy afterward with how it played defensively.

There wasn't anything to not like from that side of the ball on Thursday.

"Last week a lot of people talked about our defense," Lanning said. "They showed up today."

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL AT THE

ROSE BOWL

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL

ROSE BOWL GAME presented by Prudential

Thursday, January 1, 2026 | Rose Bowl Stadium | Pasadena, California

NO. 1 INDIANA 38

NO. 9 ALABAMA 3

Fernando Mendoza threw three touchdown passes and the top-seeded Hoosiers roared into the College Football Playoff semifinals with a 38-3 victory in the Rose Bowl.

Mendoza passed for 192 yards in his first game since winning his school's first Heisman Trophy, but the hard-nosed Hoosiers (14-0, No. 1 CFP seed) won the Rose Bowl for the first time in school history by dominating the Crimson Tide (11-4, No. 9 CFP seed) at the line of scrimmage.

Indiana scored the game's first 24 points before pouring it on with fourth-quarter rushing TDs from Kaelon Black and Roman Hemby, wrapping up a jubilant win in the 112th edition of the Granddaddy of Them All.

Charlie Becker, Omar Cooper Jr. and Elijah Sarratt caught TD passes, while Black rushed for 99 yards. Indiana outgained Alabama 407-193, steadily delighting a decidedly pro-Indiana crowd that celebrated its long-struggling team's first Rose Bowl game appearance since 1968 with chants of "Hoosier Daddy?" in the final minutes.

Indiana had not won any bowl game since the Copper Bowl in 1991, but history has been no match for Curt Cignetti and his dominant Hoosiers during the coach's two transcendent seasons.

The Hoosiers are headed to the Peach Bowl on Jan. 9 for a CFP semifinal rematch with fifth-seeded Oregon, which routed Texas Tech 23-0 earlier Thursday in the Orange Bowl. Indiana beat the then-No. 3 Ducks 30-20 in Eugene last October in one of Cignetti's most impressive Big Ten victories.

Indiana is two wins away from the first national championship in school history after becoming the first team to advance following a first-round bye in the current 12-team playoff format. The first six bye teams - including the first two this season - couldn't come back strong from an extra-long layoff, but the Hoosiers took care of business while improving to 25-2 under Cignetti.

The Crimson Tide's second season under Kalen DeBoer ended in the same venue as their final season under Nick Saban two years ago. After an impressive road win at Oklahoma, Alabama managed just 151 yards

before the final minutes of the Rose Bowl.

Ty Simpson passed for 67 yards before backup Austin Mack replaced him in the third quarter. Mack immediately got the Tide rolling on a 65-yard drive leading to a short field goal, but the Hoosiers responded with two unstoppable TD drives.

Indiana dominated the famous Rose Bowl turf, which stayed pristine despite nearly 24 hours of steady rain before kickoff. The storms dissipated while the Hoosiers took their first-half lead, and blue skies appeared in the second half.

After the first scoreless first quarter in a Rose Bowl in 26 years, Indiana's second drive stretched 84 yards and 16 plays over nearly nine minutes before Nicolas Radicic's 31-yard field goal on the first snap of the second quarter.

Indiana's defense then stopped Alabama on fourth and 1 at the Tide 34, and Mendoza fired a long, high pass to the leaping Becker four plays later for a 21-yard touchdown.

Simpson fumbled in Indiana territory after a courageous first-down scramble late in the first half, and the Hoosiers methodically drove for Mendoza's 1-yard TD pass with 17 seconds left to Cooper, the hero of Indiana's dramatic victory over Penn State.

After halftime, Mendoza led a steady 79-yard drive ending in his 24-yard TD pass to the leaping Sarratt.

The victory is the latest step in the monumental two-season turnaround of what was the losingest program in college football when Cignetti took charge. After winning 11 games and reaching the CFP last season, the Hoosiers steamrolled through their schedule this fall before beating defending national champion Ohio State for the Big Ten title and ascending to the No. 1 spot in the AP Top 25 for the first time.

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL AT THE

SUGAR BOWL

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL

Allstate SUGAR BOWL

Ole Miss

Thursday, January 1, 2026 | Caesars Superdome | New Orleans, Louisiana

NO. 6 OLE MISS 39

NO. 3 GEORGIA 34

Trinidad Chambliss passed for 362 yards and two touchdowns, and Lucas Carneiro kicked his third field goal of the game with six seconds left to put No. 6 Ole Miss in front for good in a 39-34 victory over third-ranked Georgia in a College Football Playoff quarterfinal in the Sugar Bowl on Thursday night.

In an unusual twist, Ole Miss was awarded a safety on its final kickoff when Georgia's return team tried a cross-field lateral that hit the pylon.

Georgia then recovered an onside kick and ran one more play in which they executed numerous laterals before the play fizzled, sending Ole Miss (13-1, CFP No. 6 seed) on to a semifinal against Miami in the Fiesta Bowl next Thursday.

Kicking off on the heels of two lopsided CFP quarterfinals at the Orange and Rose bowls, the Sugar Bowl provided drama until the end.

After seeing a 21-12 halftime lead turn into a 34-24 deficit with 9:02 to play, Georgia (12-2, CFP No. 3 seed) rallied to tie it, first driving for Gunner Stockton's 18-yard TD pass to Zachariah Branch before Peyton Woodring's short field goal tied it with 55 seconds left in regulation.

Chambliss responded by setting up the winning kick with a 40-yard pass to De'Zhaun Stribling on third down from Ole Miss' own 30-yard line. A few plays later, Carneiro, who'd already broken Sugar Bowl records with field goals of 55 and 56 yards, hit from 47 and sprinted triumphantly toward the Ole Miss sideline as the Rebels jubilantly swarmed around him.

Harrison Wallace III caught nine passed for 156 yards and one TD, Stribling finished with seven catches for 122 yards, Kewan Lacy rushed for 98 yards and two TDs, and the Rebels outgained the Bulldogs 473 yards to 343.

Stockton passed for 203 yards and one touchdown, and also ran for two scores.

Both quarterbacks made big plays under duress.

Twice, Chambliss appeared to be running for his life to avoid sacks, retreating well behind the line of scrimmage and changing direction before finding back-yard-type completions during a 75-yard scoring drive

that ended with Lacy's second touchdown of the game.

Stockton twice completed passes moments before absorbing heavy hits, both of which took him off his feet.

Both also converted high-pressure fourth-down passes in the fourth quarter to keep alive scoring drives when their team trailed.

In the third quarter, Chambliss found Wallace over the middle for a 36-yard gain on fourth down to the Georgia 8, setting up Lacy's 7-yard scoring run around the right end to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 21-19.

Stockton completed a 16-yard pass to Zachariah Branch on fourth and 9 near midfield in the waning minutes, setting up the tying field goal.

Georgia also converted a fake punt from its own 30 with a reverse pass from Landon Roldan to Lawson Luckie in the third quarter, sustaining a drive that culminated with Woodring's 37-yard field goal to give the Bulldogs a 24-19 lead.

But after Ole Miss had taken a 27-24 lead, Georgia again ran an offensive play on fourth down in its own territory and Stockton was sacked. Chambliss cashed in soon after with a back-should touchdown pass to Wallace to make it 34-24.

Ole Miss led 6-0 after Carneiro's two longer field goals in the first quarter.

Georgia took its first lead at 7-6 on Stockton's 12-yard run.

Chambliss quickly led Ole Miss back in front, hitting Stribling for 39 yards down the left sidelined before finding Luke Hasz crossing the back of the end zone for a 3-yard TD.

Stockton put the Bulldogs back in front on a short keeper — one play after being flatted by what appeared to be an illegal hit to the head by linebacker Tahj Chambers as the quarterback released a 26-yard completion to Cash Jones.

Lacy fumbled on the Rebel's next series, and the ball bounced straight to Daylen Everette, who ran 47 yards untouched for his first-career touchdown to make it 21-12.

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL AT THE

FIESTA BOWL

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

Vrbo Fiesta Bowl

Thursday, January 8, 2026 | State Farm Arena | Glendale, Arizona

NO. 10 MIAMI 31

NO. 6 OLE MISS 27

Carson Beck scrambled for a 3-yard touchdown with 18 seconds left, and Miami will head back home for a shot at its first national championship since 2001 after beating Ole Miss 31-27 in an exhilarating College Football Playoff semifinal at the Fiesta Bowl on Thursday night.

"We never flinched," said Beck, who threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns with an interception. "In the face of adversity, when we had to respond, we responded."

Miami held Texas A&M and reigning national champion Ohio State to a combined 17 points to reach the CFP semifinals. Then the Hurricanes shut down the high-scoring Rebels (13-2) for three quarters in the desert before pulling it out in a wild fourth.

Malachi Toney, hero of Miami's opening CFP win over Texas A&M, turned a screen pass into a 36-yard touchdown that put the Hurricanes up 24-19.

Trinidad Chambliss, a year removed from winning a Division II title at Ferris State, led the Rebels down the field and found Dae'Quan Wright for a 24-yard touchdown with 3:13 left.

Then it was Beck's turn.

He won a national title as a backup at Georgia before two productive seasons as the Bulldogs' starter. Beck kept the Hurricanes calm amid the storm, leading them down the field for the winning score — and a shot at a national title on their home field at Hard Rock Stadium. Beck is 37-5 as a starter, including two seasons at Georgia.

"He's hungry, he's driven, he's a great human being, and all he wants to do is to see his teammates have success," said Mario Cristobal, in his fourth season coaching his alma mater. "And that's what we witnessed tonight."

Chambliss completed two passes to get Ole Miss to the Miami 35 with 6 seconds left, but his heave to the end zone fell incomplete as time expired.

The sixth-seeded Rebels lost their coach before the playoff, but not their cool.

If anything, Lane Kiffin's decision to bolt for LSU seemed to harden Ole Miss' resolve, pushing the Rebels to the best season in school history — and within a game of their first national championship game.

Ole Miss took the lead on Lucas Caneiro's fourth field goal, from 21 yards, and seemed poised to continue its improbable run with Chambliss' TD pass to Wright.

The Rebels couldn't hold back the Hurricanes on their final drive, but what a run it was.

With Pete Golding calling the shots after being promoted from defensive coordinator to head coach, and most of the assistants sticking around, the Rebels blew out Tulane to open the playoff and took down Georgia in the CFP quarterfinals.

They faced a different kind of storm in the Hurricanes.

Miami has rekindled memories of its 2001 national championship team behind a defense that went from porous to nearly impenetrable in its first season under coordinator Corey Hetherman.

The Hurricanes walled up early in the Fiesta Bowl, holding Ole Miss to minus-1 yard.

One play revved up the Rebels and their rowdy fans.

Kewan Lacy, the nation's third-leading rusher, burst through a hole up the middle for a 73-yard touchdown run on the first play of the second quarter — the longest run allowed by Miami's defense since 2018.

The Hurricanes seemed content to grind away at the Rebels in small chunks offensively, setting up CharMar Brown's 4-yard touchdown run and a field goal.

Miami unlocked the deep game just before halftime, taking advantage of a busted coverage for a 52-yard touchdown pass from Beck to Keelan Marion.

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL AT THE

PEACH BOWL

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

Friday, January 9, 2026 | Mercedes-Benz Stadium | Atlanta, Georgia

NO. 1 INDIANA 56

NO. 5 OREGON 22

Undefeated Indiana's already impressive march through the College Football Playoff gained momentum as its dominant defense created three first-half touchdowns with turnovers, Fernando Mendoza threw five scoring passes and the Hoosiers overwhelmed No. 5 Oregon 56-22 in the Peach Bowl semifinal on Friday night.

No. 1 Indiana (15-0, No. 1 CFP) will face No. 10 Miami on Jan. 19 in the national championship game at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. Miami beat Ole Miss 31-27 in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal on Thursday night.

Indiana will try to give the Big Ten its third straight national title, following Ohio State and Michigan the last two seasons. Few teams from any conference can compare with the Hoosiers' season-long demonstration of balanced strong play.

Led by Mendoza and the defense, Indiana is making a case to be considered among the top teams in history.

Though Miami will be home for the national championship game, Mendoza, the Heisman Trophy winner and Miami native, will enjoy a homecoming following an almost perfect game against Oregon. Mendoza completed 17 of 20 passes and the five touchdowns, including two to Elijah Sarratt and a 36-yarder to Charlie Becker.

"I thought he was incredible," Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said of Mendoza. "He was great. I also thought our receivers made some great contested catches. He was on top of the game and his performance was a huge difference in this football game."

Oregon coach Dan Lanning said Mendoza "makes the right decisions. If he sees the coverage, he takes the ball where it needs to go."

Kaelon Black ran for two touchdowns to lead the Indiana running game.

Oregon (13-2, No. 5 CFP) was plagued by the three first-half turnovers while also being short-handed by the absence of two of their top running backs.

The Hoosiers led 35-7 at halftime as the Ducks were held to nine rushing yards on 17 carries. Noah Whittington, who led Oregon with 829 rushing yards, was held out with an undisclosed injury after Jordon Davison, who had rushed for 667 yards and 15 touchdowns, already was listed as out with a

collarbone injury.

Backup running backs, including Jay Harris and Dierre Hill Jr, provided too little help for quarterback Dante Moore. Moore's task against Indiana's stifling defense would have been daunting even with all his weapons.

Indiana's defense didn't wait long to make an impact. On Oregon's first snap, cornerback D'Angelo Ponds intercepted Moore's pass intended for Malik Benson and returned the pick 25 yards for a touchdown. Only 11 seconds into the game, the Hoosiers and their defense already had made a statement this would be a long night for Moore and the Oregon offense.

"It all started with Ponds' pick-6," Cignetti said. "We created some turnovers on defense and capitalized on offense and that was the story of the first half."

Moore's 19-yard scoring pass to tight end Jamari Johnson tied the game. The remainder of the half belonged to Indiana and its big-play defense.

After Mendoza's 8-yard touchdown pass to Omar Cooper Jr. gave the Hoosiers the lead for good at 14-7, Indiana's defense forced a turnover when Moore fumbled and Indiana recovered at the Oregon 3, setting up Black's scoring run.

Moore lost a second fumble later in the second quarter when hit by Daniel Ndukwe and Mario Landino recovered at the Oregon 21. Mendoza's first scoring pass to Sarratt gave the Hoosiers' the 35-7 lead.

"The quarterback has to protect the football," Moore said. "Oregon has a great defense and does a great job of disguising looks but the quarterback has to protect the football."

Indiana extended its lead to 42-7 on Mendoza's 13-yard scoring pass to E.J. Williams Jr.

Oregon finally answered. A 70-yard run by Hill set up a 2-yard scoring run by Harris.

Indiana's special teams added a big play in the fourth quarter when Ndukwe's blocked punt set up Mendoza's second scoring pass to Sarratt.

Following their undefeated regular season, the Hoosiers have only gained momentum in the CFP. Indiana overwhelmed Alabama 38-3 in the Rose Bowl quarterfinal as Mendoza passed for 192 yards and three touchdowns.

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Hard Rock Stadium is is a global entertainment destination that serves as home to the Miami Dolphins, the Formula 1® Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, the Miami Open, University of Miami football, major concerts, international soccer and a host of world-class events including the Capital One Orange Bowl. Hard Rock Stadium and its surrounding properties have undergone a private investment of more than $1 billion by Managing General Partner & Chairman of the Board Stephen Ross to transform the iconic venue into a global entertainment destination that showcases the best Miami has to offer.

Entering its 40th year of operation, Hard Rock Stadium is renowned as one of the world's premier venues. The facility was the first of its kind to be constructed entirely with private funds in 1987. The stadium hosted its first football game in August of that year and has welcomed more than 75 million visitors since. It has been home to six Super Bowls, four BCS National Championships, a CFP National Championship and much more.

The 2026 College Football Playoff Quarterfinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl was the 30th game hosted by the Orange Bowl at Hard Rock Stadium. Since 1996, the Orange Bowl has been played at Hard Rock Stadium, with the exception of the game on January 2, 1999. The Orange Bowl led efforts to secure the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship, the second in the CFP era to be played at Hard Rock Stadium.

The Orange Bowl and College Football Playoff National Championship kick off a historic 40th year for Hard Rock Stadium. The venue will host the 2026 Formula E Miami E-Prix on January 31, the Dolphins Cancer Challenge on February 28, Miami Open presented by Itaú in March, the fifth edition of the Formula 1® Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix in May and seven matches during the FIFA World Cup 2026 across June and July, in addition to home games for the Dolphins and University of Miami Football.

Hard Rock Stadium's main priority continues to be the fan experience. From 2015 to 2017, the stadium underwent a three-phase modernization process. Phase I was completed for the 2015 season and added all aqua seats, rebuilt the 100 and 300 level concourses, moved seats closer to the field on both sidelines and introduced new premium spaces. The renovations allowed fans to enjoy improved food and beverage options, enhanced concourses and 16 new restroom facilities.

In 2016, Hard Rock Stadium installed a state-of-the-art canopy that keeps up to 92 percent of the spectators in the shade and protected from the rain. In addition to the canopy, four giant high-definition video boards were also added. Remodeled, modernized suites throughout the stadium were unveiled for the 2017 season, offering a more intimate club experience on the 200 level to complete the three-phase renovation.

Hard Rock Stadium is one of the most versatile venues in the world, hosting the globe's top athletes and performers. The likes of Bad Bunny, Coldplay, the Eagles with Jimmy Buffett, Elton John, Billy Joel, Gloria Estefan, Guns & Roses, Green Day, Hall & Oates, Jay Z and Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Metallica, Paul McCartney, Morgan Wallen, Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Rolling Stones, Taylor Swift, The Weeknd, U2 and The Who have all performed at Hard Rock Stadium.

The inaugural Formula 1® Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix took place in 2022 at the Miami International Autodrome, the circuit surrounding Hard Rock Stadium. Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the race in 2022 and 2023 before McLaren's Lando Norris had his maiden victory in 2024, followed by his teammate Oscar Piastri winning in 2025.

The Miami Open presented by Itaú moved to Hard Rock Stadium in 2019 and accommodates a temporary 16,372-seat court inside the stadium. The Masters 1000 tournament has featured some of the best tennis players of all-time, including Serena and Venus Williams, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz, Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner.

Hard Rock Stadium hosts several of the world's biggest soccer matches. Lionel Messi helped Argentina capture another major trophy, winning the 2024 Copa America Final at the venue. The stadium hosted eight matches in the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and will host seven contests in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including the bronze final.

Major League Baseball's premier event, the World Series, was played at the stadium in 1997 and 2003 following the Florida Marlins' first regular season game in 1993. The stadium has also hosted Florida high school state championship football games, Monster Jam and boxing matches, as well as various festivals and community events such as the Dolphins Cancer Challenge, the No. 1 fundraising event in the NFL.

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Proceeds from the sale of College Football Playoff licensed merchandise support Extra Yard for Teachers, the CFP Foundation's initiative that empowers teachers and students by providing resources, support, and program development in K-12 classrooms in the communities that host the College Football Playoff National Championship.

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

The CFP Foundation, its primary platform Extra Yard for Teachers and other programs, elevates the teaching profession by inspiring and empowering teachers.

The College Football Playoff Foundation is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as the community engagement arm of the College Football Playoff and works year-round with universities, conferences, and corporate and nonprofit partners, to fund classroom projects, recognize excellence in teaching, and promote teacher recruitment and retention.

Great teachers are the cornerstone of a thriving society, and their impact extends far beyond the classroom. They ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and build the foundational skills students need to succeed in college, in their careers, and in life. By inspiring the next generation, exceptional educators shape future leaders, innovators, and engaged citizens in our communities.

81,000
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650,000
TEACHERS

13M
STUDENTS

"Every day is game day for teachers, and the College Football Playoff Foundation and each of its programs represents a coming together of college football to show its appreciation for educators and the value their role plays in the future of our communities."

BRITTON BANOWSKY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CFP FOUNDATION

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The CFP Foundation strengthens and retains the teacher workforce through various programs focused on resources, recognition, and recruitment.

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS WEEK AND THE BIG DAY FOR TEACHERS

Extra Yard for Teachers Week is an annual week-long celebration during which the CFP Foundation, alongside universities, conferences, and media, come together to celebrate, recognize and support teachers across the country. Each year, Extra Yard for Teachers Week includes activities across the college sports landscape that range from special recognitions at games, across social media and in television broadcasts, to surprise classroom visits and flash funding of classroom resources.

As a fixture to Extra Yard for Teachers Week, the Big Day for Teachers has become the single largest day of support for educators, with many of the College Football Playoff Foundation's corporate, nonprofit, and other partners participating in a multitude of activities and announcements while providing significant resources to teachers nationwide.

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS WEEK

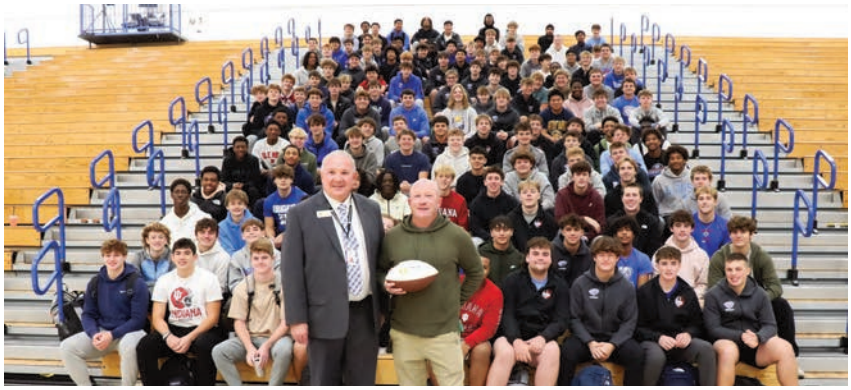
BIG DAY

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

FALL PROGRAMS

EXTRA YARD GAME BALL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Extra Yard for Teachers Game Ball Recognition Program has honored over 5,000 PK-12 teachers across the country. This program has given parent-teacher associations, principals and athletic coaches the opportunity to celebrate exceptional teachers in their respective elementary, middle or high schools. Teachers are nominated and receive a commemorative game ball, t-shirt and gift cards in recognition celebrations hosted during middle and high school football games, pep rallies and school assemblies throughout the fall and in particular during Extra Yard for Teachers Week.



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Each postseason, the College Football Playoff Foundation, ESPN Citizenship and college bowl games across the country team up to support educators through the Touchdowns for Teachers initiative. Together with the CFP Foundation, bowl games participate in a matching grant program to recognize teachers and donate classroom resources. Then, for each touchdown scored in every bowl and College Football Playoff game, the CFP Foundation and ESPN donate $1,000 to local teachers and coaches with the funds designated for health, sports and fitness resources for students.

TOUCHDOWN FOR TEACHERS
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION
touchdownforteachers.org

POSTSEASON PROGRAMS

TEACHER OF THE YEAR EXPERIENCE PRESENTED BY ECKRICH

The Teacher of the Year Championship Experience, presented by Eckrich, is a program that has been developed by the CFP Foundation in coordination with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to recognize leaders in education on the largest platform in college football. Leading up to the CFP National Championship, the 56 State Teachers of the Year are honored guests events throughout the weekend, including the Trophy Trot and Taste of the Championship. As the pinnacle of their weekend, these teachers are recognized on-field before kickoff of the national championship game to celebrate their superb effort and dedication to the education profession.

TEACHER of the YEAR
PRESENTED BY ECKRICH
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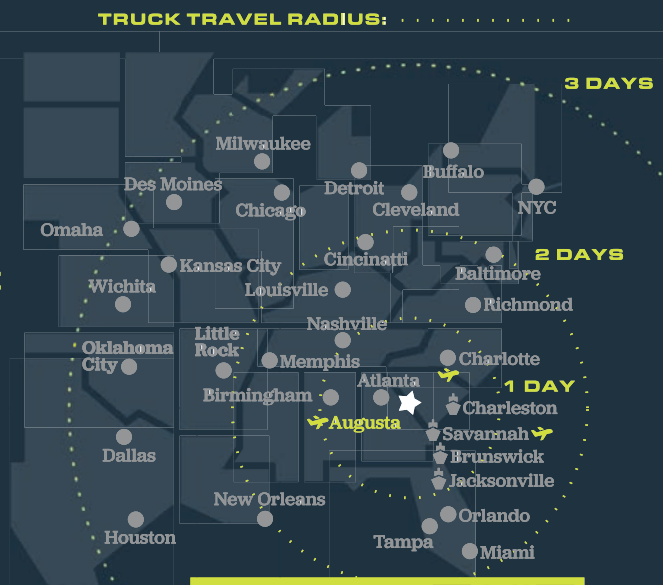

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EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS SUMMIT

The Extra Yard for Teachers Summit, held in the host city of the national championship game each year, brings teachers together for a relevant and high energy professional development program that is free to attend in person or remotely via live stream. The Extra Yard for Teachers Summit features inspiring speakers who recognize the hard work of working with kids in PK-12 schools and past speakers and presenters have included Miguel Cardona, former U.S. Secretary of Education; Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State; ESPN college football talent, and many more. The Summit also includes many partner giveaways for classroom resources, ticket giveaways and sponsor gifts. In-person attendees also enjoy a post-event reception for peer-to-peer-networking and camaraderie.

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS SUMMIT

POSTSEASON PROGRAMS

EXTRA YARD MAKEOVER PROGRAM

The CFP Foundation's Extra Yard Makeover program has transformed learning spaces in over 100 schools across the country. The CFP Foundation and Miami Host Committee have committed to unveiling more than 30 newly-renovated innovation spaces in schools across Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, and at least 20 more Extra Yard Makeovers are in progress in Miami and across the country. These updated learning spaces will be revealed as they are completed between now and the end of the school year.

"Changing our middle school libraries into modern learning spaces has had a tremendous impact on engagement and learning outcomes. In addition to a renovation, each transformation is an investment in our teachers, our students, and our future. These new innovative spaces support hands-on learning for students of today and tomorrow, so they can develop greater curiosity for learning and lifelong skills."

JOSE DOTRES
SUPERINTENDENT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS

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EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

Over the last six years and in partnership with Dr Pepper, the CFP Foundation has supported over 500 college student-athletes with tuition assistance to continue their studies to become a teacher or coach.

The College Football Playoff Foundation has celebrated thousands of high school students who are participating in programs pursuing careers in education.

GO TEACH

The CFP Foundation's Go Teach initiative is vital for addressing the nationwide teacher shortage by continuously guiding exceptional students toward fulfilling careers in education. College student-athletes represent a particularly strong pool to recruit as teaching candidates due to their desirable characteristics and skills. This population also reflects the kind of diversity needed for the future of the educator workforce. Furthermore, the CFP Foundation's "Grow Your Own" programs in high schools are essential for identifying individuals with an interest in teaching from within their community. This approach is proven to nurture future educators who are more likely to remain and make significant contributions to the schools in those same communities.

YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS

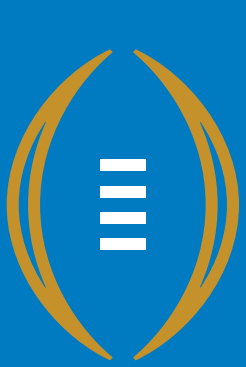
HONORED SCHOOLS

Honored Schools is a groundbreaking initiative that enables teachers to receive consistent and personalized recognition from students and family members within their communities. The program is designed to help inspire and retain great teachers while building a culture of appreciation for teachers at schools across the country. Through the HonoredSchools.org online platform, students and family members within each participating school submit "Honor Story" anecdotes about how teachers have made a difference in their lives. Every teacher who is recognized receives their student's story by email and are publicly recognized by their respective schools and on the Honored Schools website.

TICKETS FOR TEACHERS

The College Football Playoff Foundation gives back to those who give so much through its Tickets for Teachers program, developed in partnership with Tickets for Good. Tickets for Teachers provides educators with special access to sports, arts, and entertainment events for free or at a special rate, and occasionally gives them a chance to see the biggest stars through premium giveaway raffles.

Booking a vacation rental shouldn't feel like a Hail Mary.



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EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS
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MIAMI LOVES TEACHERS AND SOUTH FLORIDA'S LEGACY PROGRAM

In partnership with the Orange Bowl Committee and the Miami Host Committee, the CFP Foundation has significantly impacted South Florida's educational landscape for over 10 yearsthrough a projected $10 million in investments by the end of the 2025-26 school year. This commitment spans Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties by focusing on transforming school infrastructure, particularly creating innovation centers in middle school libraries. In fact, every public middle school in Miami-Dade County (MDCPS) will receive an Extra Yard Makeover by the end of the 2025-26 school year. Beyond physical spaces, the CFP Foundation supports teacher retention through its "Miami Loves Teachers" digital platform,while fostering future educators with the Go Teach program.

WHAT STARTS ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD
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The unwavering support of its corporate and philanthropic partners is absolutely vital, enabling the CFP Foundation to provide educators with the recognition and resources they need to inspire and empower the next generation.

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TOUCHDOWN FOR TEACHERS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION

The College Football Playoff Foundation and ESPN are giving back to those who inspire through sports. During college football's postseason, ESPN will donate $1,000 for every touchdown scored to support teachers and coaches leading health, sports, and fitness projects. This Touchdown for Teachers initiative builds upon the millions already invested in educational resources through the CFP Foundation's Bowl Season grant program.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

HEISMAN™

MORE THAN A TROPHY

The Heisman Trophy Trust's mission is to grow the legacy and preserve the integrity of the Heisman Memorial Trophy, which is annually awarded to the most outstanding college football player in the United States whose performance epitomizes great ability combined with diligence, perseverance, and hard work.

As a nonprofit organization, the Trust seeks to harness the power of sports to improve young people's lives. The Trust draws on the Heisman Trophy's legacy of athletic excellence to support and fund youth development programs in underserved communities, granting millions of dollars annually to programs that employ sports and education to provide young people with academic support, athletic development, life skills training, and opportunities for healthy activities rooted in the values of the Heisman.

Additionally, the Trust annually presents the Heisman Humanitarian Award to outstanding individuals in the sports world whose charitable work furthers the Heisman mission.

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TEAM HISTORY

UNIVERSITY FOUNDED
1820

LOCATION
Bloomington, Indiana

ENROLLMENT
38,093 (undergrad)
48,626 (total)

NATIONAL TITLES
0

CONFERENCE TITLES
3

HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS
1

ALL-TIME VICTORIES
534

CONSENSUS ALL-AMERICANS
9

FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS
12

FAMOUS ALUMNI (NON-FOOTBALL)
Mark Cuban
Laverne Cox
Suzanne Collins
Booker T. Jones
Venus Williams
Will Shortz

INDIANA HOOSIERS

B1G INSIDER

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

PAMELA WHITTEN
PRESIDENT

Indiana University is one of the nation's leading public research universities, with nearly 90,000 students across seven campuses, two regional academic centers and nine School of Medicine campuses. Since 1820, Indiana University has helped students create brighter futures, while also driving innovation, from breakthroughs in DNA technology to cancer research to trailblazing cultural programs and resources. IU is home to world-class academics with the country's largest medical school, the world's first school of philanthropy, the top-ranked Kelley School of Business and O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering, the nation's first school of informatics. The university's campuses are united by IU 2030, an aspirational vision for a bold and ambitious future focused on student success and opportunity, transformative research and creativity, and service to the state of Indiana and beyond. Learn more at iu.edu.

INDIANA ATHLETICS

SCOTT DOLSON
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

In 1887, Indiana University played its first football game against Franklin. In 1899, Indiana University joined the four year-old Western Conference (now known as the Big Ten). And in 1901, IU Athletic Director J.H. Horne assembled the university's first intercollegiate men's basketball team.

From those modest beginnings more than 130 years ago has emerged one of the most successful, highly-respected and forward-thinking intercollegiate athletic departments in the country.

Some of the sporting world's most impactful student-athletes and coaches trace their roots back to Indiana University, including Mark Spitz, Bob Knight, Isiah Thomas, James 'Doc' Counsilman and Lilly King. Indiana University has won 25 national team titles, 191 Big Ten team titles, and enjoyed dynasties in men's swimming and diving, women's tennis, men's soccer and men's basketball.

In addition to enjoying tremendous team success, IU student-athletes have succeeded on the highest levels individually. IU student-athletes have captured 176 NCAA titles, including seven last year by a school-record six different individuals. Last year marked the 17th straight non-COVID year that IU has had at least one individual NCAA champion.

Hoosier student-athletes have also excelled on the international stage. IU student-athletes have won 61 Olympic gold medals, a total that ranks in the top-10 nationally. IU student-athletes have also represented 29 countries in the Olympic Games, including 10 different countries during the most recent Summer Olympics in Paris. At the 2024 Paris Games, there were 23 IU-affiliated athletes and coaches, a total that matched the school-record previously set in 1968.

But the department's successes aren't limited to those on-the-field accomplishments. Indiana University has had four student-athletes named Rhodes Scholars, with the most recent being in 2010. The department has a tradition of being forward thinking, from being the school that broke Big Ten Basketball's color barrier in 1948 to its creation of the first-of-its-kind policies such as the Student-Athlete Bill of Rights to the leadership role it has played in NIL.

Whether on the field or off, for more than 130 years IU Athletics has been a leader in the world of intercollegiate athletics.

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HEAD COACH

CURT CIGNETTI
HEAD COACH

Indiana football head coach Curt Cignetti has guided the program to its first Big Ten title since 1967 in 2025 and back-to-back College Football Playoff appearances over his first two seasons at the helm of the program.

Cignetti earned six national coach of the year honors after he engineered one of the best first-year turnarounds in FBS history and led Indiana to its first-ever appearance in the CFP.

His second season netted at least five more national coach of the year awards and the first unblemished regular season in program history (12-0). He is the first coach in the history of the AFCA, AP, Sporting News, Walter Camp and Home Depot coach of the year awards to win the honor in consecutive seasons.

Cignetti is the third head coach since 1950 to begin his Power 4 tenure with consecutive 10-0 starts along with Larry Coker (Miami (Fla.); 2001-02) and Urban Meyer (Ohio State; 2012-13). His 24 wins entering the College Football Playoff are one shy of tying Kalen DeBoer (Washington; 2022-23) for the most by an FBS head coach in his first two seasons at a school in the AP poll era (since 1936).

Cignetti's 41-year journey though coaching includes 15 as a head coach and 26 as an assistant. He owns a career record of 143–37 as a head coach with stops at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2011-16), Elon (2017-18), James Madison (2019-23) and Indiana (2024-).

His tenure as an assistant coach featured stops at Davidson (1985), Rice (1986-88), Temple (1989-92), Pittsburgh (1993-99), NC State (2000-06) and Alabama (2007-10).

Cignetti and his wife, Manette, have three children, Natalie, Carly and Curtis. His father, Frank, is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame after he compiled a coaching record of 199-77-1 at West Virginia (1976-79) and IUP (1986-2005). The field at IUP is named in his honor: Frank Cignetti Field at George P. Miller Stadium.

ASSISTANT COACHES

BRYANT HAINES
Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers

MIKE SHANAHAN
Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers

GRANT CAIN
Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends

OLA ADAMS
Safeties/Defensive Backs

BOB BOSTAD
Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator

PAT KUNTZ
Defensive Tackles

JOHN MILLER
Running Backs

ROD OJONG
Cornerbacks

CHANDLER WHITMER
Quarterbacks/Co-Offensive Coordinator

BUDDHA WILLIAMS
Defensive Ends

DEREK OWINGS
Director of Athletic Performance

INDIANA SPIRIT

The Indiana University Cheerleading program consists of two teams (coed team (Cream) and female team (Crimson) with a total of 60 athletes and five coaches. The IU cheerleading program began in the early 20th century when many Big Ten Conference schools featured "yell leaders" at different sporting events.

The current cheerleading program is under the direction of Julie Horine '89. Julie has been with the program since 1985 and started coaching during her senior year at IU. This marks her 37th year as the program's head coach. Assistant coaches are Megan Nash '05, Ethan Ferguson '22, Kelly Gomez '19 and Jill Baber.

The IU Athletics Department sponsors the program, and the cheer teams appear at football games, men's and women's basketball games, and a variety of university events. Crowd favorites include the Wipeout cheer at football games (performed to the tune of the Surfaris' 1963 hit song - Wipeout) and the William Tell Overture timeout cheer, featuring the running of IU flags, at basketball games (also known as the "Greatest Timeout in College Basketball").

On the competitive side of the program, the "Crimson" All Female cheer team holds six Division 1A National titles with the UCA College Cheerleading Championships. (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019). The Crimson squad heads to Orlando for the 2026 Championships Jan. 15-18.

This year marked the return of IU's bison mascot (originally debuting in 1965). The original bison mascot roamed the sidelines from 1965-70 but was discontinued due to challenges related to building and maintaining the costume. The new bison mascot – Hoosier the Bison – made his official return on Aug. 30 when he parachuted into Memorial Stadium before the first home football game.

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MEET THE HOOSIERS

JONATHAN
BRADY
WR • Sr.
0

HOSEA
WHEELER
DL • R-Sr.
0

AMARE
FERRELL
DB • Jr.
1

ROMAN
HEMBY
RB • R-Sr.
1

BYRON
BALDWIN JR.
DB • Fr.
2

GRANT
WILSON
QB • R-Sr.+
2

JAYLEN
BELL
DB • Fr.
3

OMAR
COOPER JR.
WR • R-Jr.
3

DAVION
CHANDLER
WR • Fr.
4

AIDEN
FISHER
LB • Sr.
4

D'ANGELO
PONDS
DB • Jr.
5

LEBRON
BOND
WR • Fr.
6

MIKAIL
KAMARA
DL • R-Sr.
6

LOUIS
MOORE
DB • R-Sr.+
7

E.J.
WILLIAMS JR.
WR • R-Sr.+
7

KAELON
BLACK
RB • R-Sr.
8

STEPHEN
DALEY
DL • Sr.
8

TYLER
MORRIS
WR • Sr.
9

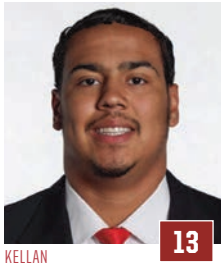
SEAONTA
STEWART JR.
DB • Fr.
9

RYLAND
GANDY
DB • R-Jr.
10

JACOB
BELL
QB • Fr.
12

DEVAN
BOYKIN
DB • R-Sr.+
12

ELIJAH
SARRATT
WR • Sr.
13



KELLAN
WYATT
DL • Sr.
13

MEET THE HOOSIERS

14
MAVERICK
GESKE
QB • Fr.

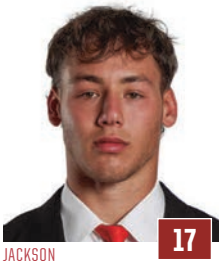
14
KAIDEN
TURNER
LB • R-Jr.

15
FERNANDO
MENDOZA
QB • R-Jr.

15
NICO
RADICIC
K • R-So.

16
ALBERTO
MENDOZA
QB • R-Fr.

17
DANIEL
NDUKWE
DL • So.



17
JACKSON
WASSERSTROM
WR • R-Jr.

18
ANDREW
TURVY
DL • R-Sr.

18
SOLOMON
VANHORSE
RB • Gr.+

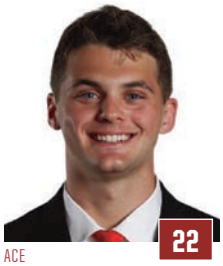
19
ZACHAREY
SMITH
DB • Fr.

19
HOLDEN
STAES
TE • Sr.

20
SEAN
CUONO
RB • Fr.

20
DONTRAE
HENDERSON
DB • R-Fr.

21
ROLIJAH
HARDY
LB • So.



22
ACE
CIONGOLI
WR • Fr.

22
JAMARI
SHARPE
DB • R-Jr.

24
BRYSON
BONDS
DB • R-Sr.

26
CADE
KAISER
WR • Fr.

27
REECE
BELLIN
DB • R-So.

28
KHOBE
MARTIN
RB • R-Fr.

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MEET THE HOOSIERS

LEE
BEEBE JR.
RB • R-Jr.

KYLER
KROPP
RB • R-Fr.

PJ
NELSON
LB • Fr.

ANTHONY
CHUNG
DB • R-So.

GARRETT
REESE
DB • Fr.

JEFF
UTZINGER
LB • R-Jr.

BRENDAN
FRANKE
K • R-Sr.+

CLAY
CONNER
DB • R-So.

HEATH
KIZER
DB • R-Fr.

RILEY
NOWAKOWSKI
TE • R-Sr.+

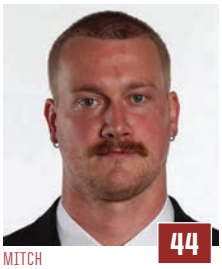
KADEN
MCCONNELL
LB • R-Fr.

QUENTIN
CLARK
DL • R-Fr.

KEISHAUN
CALHOUN
DL • Fr.

BRYCE
TAYLOR
K • Fr.

AMARI
KAMARA
LB • Fr.



MITCH
MCCARTHY
P • Sr.

SAM
LINDSEY
LS • R-So.

LINCOLN
MURFF
DB • R-So.

ISAIAH
JONES
LB • R-Jr.

MARK
LANGSTON
LS • R-Sr.+

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MEET THE HOOSIERS

47
FINN
WALTERS
DL • R-So.

48
JAMES
BOMBA
TE • R-Sr.

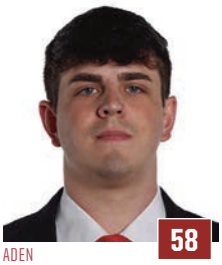
49
OLUBADE
BAKER
K • R-Sr.

50
JHREVIOUS
HALL
DL • Fr.

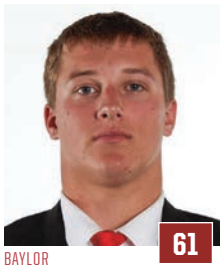
52
CLAYTON
ALLEN
LB • R-So.

54
JACK
GREER
OL • R-Jr.

56
CHANCE
JOHNSON
OL • Fr.



58
ADEN
CANNON
DL • R-Jr.



61
BAYLOR
WILKIN
OL • Fr.

62
DREW
EVANS
OL • R-Jr.

65
CARTER
SMITH
OL • R-Jr.

66
EVAN
PARKER
OL • Fr.

67
KAHLIL
BENSON
OL • R-Sr.+

70
AUSTIN
LEIBFRIED
OL • R-Fr.

71
EVAN
LAWRENCE
OL • R-Fr.

72
ADEDAMOLA
AJANI
OL • R-Fr.

74
BRAY
LYNCH
OL • R-Jr.

75
ZEN
MICHALSKI
OL • R-Sr.

77
MATT
MAREK
OL • Fr.

78
PAT
COOGAN
OL • R-Sr.

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MEET THE HOOSIERS

80
CHARLIE
BECKER
WR • So.

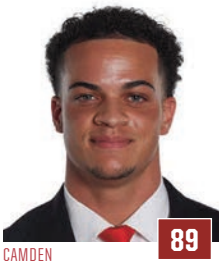
82
MYLES
KENDRICK
WR • Fr.

83
HUNTER
STROUD
WR • Fr.

84
BLAKE
THIRY
TE • Fr.

85
ANDREW
BARKER
TE • Fr.

86
BRUNO
MASSEL IV
WR • Fr.



89
CAMDEN
JORDAN
WR • R-Sr.

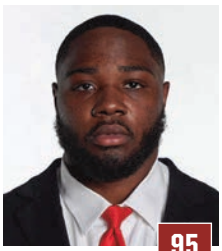
90
J'MARI
MONETTE
DL • R-Jr.

90
JOSH
PLACZEK
K • R-Fr.

91
DOMINIQUE
RATCLIFF
DL • R-Sr.+

93
QUINN
WARREN
K • So.

94
KYLER
GARCIA
DL • Fr.



95
TYRIQUE
TUCKER
DL • R-Jr.

96
TRISTON
ABRAM
DL • Fr.

97
MARIO
LANDINO
DL • So.

99
TYRONE
BURRUS JR.
DL • Fr.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY ROSTERS

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
96	Abram, Triston	DL	6-3	228	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers
72	Ajani, Adedamola	OL	6-4	308	R-Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Speedway
52	Allen, Clayton	LB	6-2	219	R-So.	Fishers, Ind/Hamilton Southeastern
49	Baker, Olubade	K	6-1	207	R-Sr.	Lawrenceville, Ga./Parkview (Morehouse)
2	Baldwin Jr., Byron	DB	6-2	194	Fr.	Baltimore, Md./Saint Frances Academy
85	Barker, Andrew	TE	6-4	246	Fr.	Kokomo, Ind./Kokomo
80	Becker, Charlie	WR	6-4	209	So.	Nashville, Tenn./Father Ryan
29	Beebe Jr., Lee	RB	5-10	218	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala./Park Crossing (UAB)
12	Bell, Jacob	QB	6-2	213	Fr.	Naperville, Ill./Naperville North
3	Bell, Jaylen	DB	5-10	176	Fr.	Union, N.J./Grayson
27	Bellin, Reece	DB	6-1	206	R-So.	Carmel, Ind./Carmel
67	Benson, Kahlil	OL	6-6	319	R-Sr.+	Webb, Miss./Southaven (Colorado)
8	Black, Kaelon	RB	5-10	211	R-Sr.	Virginia Beach, Va./Salem (James Madison)
48	Bomba, James	TE	6-6	252	R-Sr.	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington South (Miami (Ohio))
6	Bond, Lebron	WR	5-9	173	Fr.	Norfolk, Va./Maury
24	Bonds, Bryson	DB	6-0	202	R-Sr.	Fort Worth, Texas/Crowley
12	Boykin, Devan	DB	5-10	195	R-Sr.+	Greensboro, N.C./Ragsdale (NC State)
0	Brady, Jonathan	WR	5-10	183	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif./Bishop Gorman (Cal)
99	Burrus Jr., Tyrone	DL	6-4	236	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Warren Central
41	Calhoun, Keishaun	DL	6-2	267	Fr.	Groveport, Ohio/Groveport-Madison
58	Cannon, Aden	DL	6-6	268	R-Jr.	Carmel, Ind./Guerin Catholic
4	Chandler, Davion	WR	5-11	180	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Lawrence North
31	Chung, Anthony	DB	6-1	197	R-So.	Mequon, Wis./Homestead
22	Ciongoli, Ace	WR	5-11	169	Fr.	Needham, Mass./St. Sebastian's
40	Clark, Quentin	DL	6-1	227	R-Fr.	Dexter, Ga./West Laurens
36	Conner, Clay	DB	6-4	207	R-So.	Boonville, Ind./Boonville
78	Coogan, Pat	OL	6-5	311	R-Sr.	Palos Heights, Ill./Marist (Notre Dame)
3	Cooper Jr., Omar	WR	6-0	204	R-Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Lawrence North
20	Cuono, Sean	RB	5-10	198	Fr.	Clearwater, Fla./Clearwater Central Catholic
8	Daley, Stephen	DL	6-1	273	Sr.	Winchester, Va./John Handley (Kent State)
62	Evans, Drew	OL	6-4	309	R-Jr.	Fort Atkinson, Wis./Fort Atkinson (Wisconsin)
1	Ferrell, Amare	DB	6-2	202	Jr.	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
4	Fisher, Aiden	LB	6-1	231	Sr.	Fredericksburg, Va./Riverbend (James Madison)
35	Franke, Brendan	K	6-3	233	R-Sr.+	Gretna, Neb./Gretna (Texas State)
10	Gandy, Ryland	DB	6-0	186	R-Jr.	Buford, Ga./Buford (Pitt)
94	Garcia, Kyler	DL	6-4	291	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn./Pearl-Cohn
14	Geske, Maverick	QB	6-0	192	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Brebeuf Jesuit
54	Greer, Jack	OL	6-3	313	R-Jr.	Fishers, Ind./Hamilton Southeastern
50	Hall, Jhrevious	DL	6-2	306	Fr.	Columbia, Tenn./Columbia Central
21	Hardy, Rolijah	LB	5-11	229	So.	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland (Naval Academy Preparatory School)
1	Hemby, Roman	RB	6-0	210	R-Sr.	Edgewood, Md./John Carroll (Maryland)
20	Henderson, Dontrae	DB	5-11	183	R-Fr.	Charlotte, N.C./Julius Chambers
56	Johnson, Chance	OL	6-5	300	Fr.	Jeffersonville, Ind./Jeffersonville
46	Jones, Isaiah	LB	6-2	230	R-Jr.	London, Ohio/London
89	Jordan, Camden	WR	6-0	180	R-Sr.	Carmel, Ind./Cathedral (San Jacinto College)
26	Kaiser, Cade	WR	6-5	207	Fr.	Batesville, Ind./Batesville
44	Kamara, Amari	LB	5-11	202	Fr.	Asburn, Va./Stone Bridge
6	Kamara, Mikail	DL	6-1	262	R-Sr.	Ashburn, Va./Stone Bridge (James Madison)
82	Kendrick, Myles	WR	6-0	190	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Riverside
37	Kizer, Heath	DB	6-1	203	R-Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./North Central
30	Kropp, Kyler	RB	6-2	209	R-Fr.	New Palestine, Ind./New Palestine

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.
0	Brady, Jonathan	WR
0	Wheeler, Hosea	DL
1	Ferrell, Amare	DB
1	Hemby, Roman	RB
2	Baldwin Jr., Byron	DB
2	Wilson, Grant	QB
3	Bell, Jaylen	DB
3	Cooper Jr., Omar	WR
4	Chandler, Davion	WR
4	Fisher, Aiden	LB
5	Ponds, D'Angelo	DB
6	Bond, Lebron	WR
6	Kamara, Mikail	DL
7	Moore, Louis	DB
7	Williams Jr., E.J.	WR
8	Black, Kaelon	RB
8	Daley, Stephen	DL
9	Morris, Tyler	WR
9	Stewart Jr., Seaonta	DB
10	Gandy, Ryland	DB
12	Bell, Jacob	QB
12	Boykin, Devan	DB
13	Sarratt, Elijah	WR
13	Wyatt, Kellan	DL
14	Geske, Maverick	QB
14	Turner, Kaiden	LB
15	Mendoza, Fernando	QB
15	Radicic, Nico	K
16	Mendoza, Alberto	QB
17	Ndukwe, Daniel	DL
17	Wasserstrom, Jackson	WR
18	Turvy, Andrew	DL
18	Vanhorse, Solomon	RB
19	Smith, Zacharey	DB
19	Staes, Holden	TE
20	Cuono, Sean	RB
20	Henderson, Dontrae	DB
21	Hardy, Rolijah	LB
22	Ciongoli, Ace	WR
22	Sharpe, Jamari	DB
24	Bonds, Bryson	DB
26	Kaiser, Cade	WR
27	Bellin, Reece	DB
28	Martin, Khobe	RB
29	Beebe Jr., Lee	RB
30	Kropp, Kyler	RB
30	Nelson, PJ	LB
31	Chung, Anthony	DB
33	Reese, Garrett	DB
34	Utzinger, Jeff	LB
35	Franke, Brendan	K

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ROSTERS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.
36	Conner, Clay	DB
37	Kizer, Heath	DB
37	Nowakowski, Riley	TE
38	McConnell, Kaden	LB
40	Clark, Quentin	DL
41	Calhoun, Keishaun	DL
43	Taylor, Bryce	K
44	Kamara, Amari	LB
44	McCarthy, Mitch	P
45	Lindsey, Sam	LS
45	Murff, Lincoln	DB
46	Jones, Isaiah	LB
47	Langston, Mark	LS
47	Walters, Finn	DL
48	Bomba, James	TE
49	Baker, Olubade	K
50	Hall, Jhrevious	DL
52	Allen, Clayton	LB
54	Greer, Jack	OL
56	Johnson, Chance	OL
58	Cannon, Aden	DL
61	Wilkin, Baylor	OL
62	Evans, Drew	OL
65	Smith, Carter	OL
66	Parker, Evan	OL
67	Benson, Kahlil	OL
70	Leibfried, Austin	OL
71	Lawrence, Evan	OL
72	Ajani, Adedamola	OL
74	Lynch, Bray	OL
75	Michalski, Zen	OL
77	Marek, Matt	OL
78	Coogan, Pat	OL
80	Becker, Charlie	WR
82	Kendrick, Myles	WR
83	Stroud, Hunter	WR
84	Thiry, Blake	TE
85	Barker, Andrew	TE
86	Massel IV, Bruno	WR
89	Jordan, Camden	WR
90	Monette, J'mari	DL
90	Placzek, Josh	K
91	Ratcliff, Dominique	DL
93	Warren, Quinn	K
94	Garcia, Kyler	DL
95	Tucker, Tyrique	DL
96	Abram, Triston	DL
97	Landino, Mario	DL
99	Burrus Jr., Tyrone	DL

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
97	Landino, Mario	DL	6-4	284	So.	Macungie, Pa./Emmaus
47	Langston, Mark	LS	6-0	222	R-Sr.+	Savannah, Ga./Savannah Christian (Georgia Southern)
71	Lawrence, Evan	OL	6-6	306	R-Fr.	Danville, Ind./ Danville Community
70	Leibfried, Austin	OL	6-6	306	R-Fr.	Mount Horeb, Wis./Mount Horeb
45	Lindsey, Sam	LS	6-0	190	R-So.	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview (Georgia State)
74	Lynch, Bray	OL	6-5	312	R-Jr.	Austin, Texas/Westlake
77	Marek, Matt	OL	6-3	308	Fr.	Orland Park, Ill./Sandburg
28	Martin, Khobe	RB	6-0	208	R-Fr.	Fishers, Ind./Fishers
86	Massel IV, Bruno	WR	5-11	193	Fr.	Elmhurst, Ill./York
44	McCarthy, Mitch	P	6-5	233	Sr.	Melbourne, Australia/Frankston (UCF)
38	McConnell, Kaden	LB	6-2	229	R-Fr.	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
16	Mendoza, Alberto	QB	6-2	207	R-Fr.	Miami, Fla./Christopher Columbus
15	Mendoza, Fernando	QB	6-5	225	R-Jr.	Miami, Fla./Christopher Columbus (Cal)
75	Michalski, Zen	OL	6-6	310	R-Sr.	Floyds Knobb, Ind./Floyd Central (Ohio State)
90	Monette, J'mari	DL	6-3	286	R-Jr.	Alexandria, La./Alexandria
7	Moore, Louis	DB	5-11	200	R-Sr.+	Mesquite, Texas/Poteet (Ole Miss)
9	Morris, Tyler	WR	5-11	183	Sr.	Bolingbrook, Ill./Nazareth Academy (Michigan)
45	Murff, Lincoln	DB	5-10	184	R-So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Ben Davis
17	Ndukwe, Daniel	DL	6-3	244	So.	Lithonia, Ga./Arabia Mountain
30	Nelson, PJ	LB	6-1	219	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Princeton
37	Nowakowski, Riley	TE	6-1	249	R-Sr.+	Milwaukee, Wis./Marquette University High School (Wisconsin)
66	Parker, Evan	OL	6-4	308	Fr.	Carmel, Ind./Carmel
90	Placzek, Josh	K	5-11	199	R-Fr.	Carmel, Ind./Carmel
5	Ponds, D'Angelo	DB	5-9	173	Jr.	Miami, Fla./Chaminade Madonna (James Madison)
15	Radicic, Nico	K	5-11	187	R-So.	Coppell, Texas/Coppell
91	Ratcliff, Dominique	DL	6-3	296	R-Sr.+	Conroe, Texas/Conroe (Texas State)
33	Reese, Garrett	DB	6-2	203	Fr.	Chicago, Ill./Nazareth Academy
13	Sarratt, Elijah	WR	6-2	213	Sr.	Stafford, Va./St. Frances Academy (James Madison)
22	Sharpe, Jamari	DB	6-1	187	R-Jr.	Miami, Fla./Northwestern
65	Smith, Carter	OL	6-5	313	R-Jr.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy Liberty
19	Smith, Zacharey	DB	5-11	170	Fr.	Union City, Ga./Hapeville Charter Academy
19	Staes, Holden	TE	6-4	250	Sr.	Atlanta, Ga./Westminster School (Tennessee)
9	Stewart Jr., Seaonta	DB	6-1	203	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Winton Woods
83	Stroud, Hunter	WR	6-0	178	Fr.	Martinsville, Ind./Martinsville
43	Taylor, Bryce	K	5-10	184	Fr.	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington South
84	Thiry, Blake	TE	6-4	224	Fr.	Prairie du Chien, Wis./Prairie du Chien
95	Tucker, Tyrique	DL	6-0	302	R-Jr.	Norfolk, Va./Life Christian Academy (James Madison)
14	Turner, Kaiden	LB	6-0	229	R-Jr.	Fayetteville, Ark./Fayetteville
18	Turvy, Andrew	DL	6-2	253	R-Sr.	Carmel, Ind./Carmel
34	Utzinger, Jeff	LB	6-3	232	R-Jr.	Carmel, Ind./Cathedral
18	Vanhorse, Solomon	RB	5-8	185	Gr.+	Alpharetta, Ga./Milton (James Madison)
47	Walters, Finn	DL	6-4	250	R-So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Brebeuf Jesuit
93	Warren, Quinn	K	6-6	223	So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Brebeuf Jesuit
17	Wasserstrom, Jackson	WR	5-11	175	R-Jr.	Westfield, Ind./Westfield
0	Wheeler, Hosea	DL	6-3	298	R-Sr.	Elk Grove, Calif./Franklin (Western Kentucky)
61	Wilkin, Baylor	OL	6-5	290	Fr.	Van Buren, Ohio/Findlay
7	Williams Jr., E.J.	WR	6-3	205	R-Sr.+	Phenix City, Ala./Central (Clemson)
2	Wilson, Grant	QB	6-3	220	R-Sr.+	Arlington, Va./Yorktown (Old Dominion)
13	Wyatt, Kellan	DL	6-2	257	Sr.	Glen Burnie, Md./Archbishop Spalding (Maryland)

HOW THEY GOT HERE

GAME 1
Indiana 27, Old Dominion 14
August 30, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

The No. 20 Indiana football trailed 7-0 after the first play from scrimmage went for a touchdown and that score stood until Jonathan Brady returned a punt 91 yards for a score and sparked 27-straight points en route to a 27-14 season-opening victory over Old Dominion. The Hoosiers piled up 502 yards of total offense and the defense picked off three ODU passes to help control the time of possession 41:28-18:32. Roman Hemby rushed for 111 yards in his first game in the Cream and Crimson. Fernando Mendoza passed for 193 yards, but his only touchdown game came on the ground in the second quarter.

GAME 2
Indiana 56, Kennesaw State 9
September 6, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

Indiana's (2-0) offense got two first-quarter touchdowns and the defense allowed just three field goals in a route of Kennesaw State. The offense posted its second-straight game with 500 yards of total offense, which included 300 yards rushing. Fernando Mendoza completed 18-of-25 passes for 245 yards and four passing touchdowns, while three different Hoosiers collected rushing scores. Riley Nowakowski opened the scoring with a 1-yard touchdown run and Elijah Sarratt was on the receiving end of three touchdown passes. Both Aiden Fisher and Kellan Wyatt chipped in 2.5 tackles for loss.

GAME 2

GAME 3
Indiana 73, Indiana State 0
September 12, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

Omar Cooper Jr. and Fernando Mendoza combined for one of the most productive days in Indiana (3-0) history as IU posted its largest shutout win since 1901. Cooper Jr. pulled in 10 receptions for 207 yards and a program-record-tying four touchdown receptions and Mendoza completed 19-of-20 passes for 270 yards and five touchdown throws. The defense logged 16.0 tackles for loss to equal the most in a game since at least 1996 and limited the Sycamores to just 77 yards of total offense – the fourth-fewest since at least 1959. Khobie Martin led a 300-yard rushing attack with 109 yards on 11 carries with two touchdowns – all coming in the fourth quarter.

GAME 4
Indiana 63, No. 9 Illinois 10
September 20, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

In front of the second-largest crowd in program history, Indiana (4-0) registered the largest margin of victory ever by a team outside the AP top-10 against an AP top-10 team in its 63-10 win over Illinois. A swarming defense piled up 7.0 sacks and limited the Illini to just 161 yards of total offense, while the offense rushed for 300 yards in its fourth-straight game. D'Angelo Ponds blocked a punt on Illinois' second offensive possession and returned it for a touchdown. After the Illini evened the score on the next drive, Indiana reeled off seven-straight touchdown drives. Fernando Mendoza spun five touchdown passes – to four different receivers – and completed 21-of-23 passes for 267 yards.

GAME 5
Indiana 20, Iowa 15
September 27, 2025
Kinnick Stadium • Iowa City, Iowa

In its first road test of the season, Indiana (5-0) battled a stingy Iowa defense, raucous crowd and late interception to earn a 20-15 victory. The Hoosiers started a season 5-0 in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history thanks to a pair of game-tying field goals from Nico Radicic and a 49-yard touchdown grab from Elijah Sarratt with 1:28 remaining in the game. An early fourth quarter field goal for Iowa gave the home team a 13-10 lead before Radicic hit a 44-yarder to tie the score with 9:47 left. The two teams then traded interceptions, before Iowa missed a 42-yard field goal with 2:01 left in the contest. On third-and-10 with 1:28 remaining, Fernando Mendoza found Sarratt on the 49-yard go-ahead touchdown and the Indiana defense held on a fourth-down attempt to seal the win.

GAME 6
Indiana 30, Oregon 20
October 11, 2025
Autzen Stadium • Eugene, Ore.

Indiana (6-0) never trailed in the game, but Oregon never let the Hoosiers feel comfortable. With a 20-13 lead in the fourth quarter, a pick-6 by UO's Brandon Finney Jr. knotted the score at 20-20 with 12:42 to play. Fernando Mendoza responded with a scoring drive that covered 75 yards on 12 plays and lasted 6:19 to give IU the lead right back on a touchdown pass to Elijah Sarratt with 6:23 to play. From there, the defense took over with Louis Moore and Isaiah Jones grabbing interceptions on back-to-back drives to seal the victory. Roman Hemby shouldered the load with 19 carries for 70 yards and two touchdowns, his first as a Hoosier.

GAME 7
Indiana 38, Michigan State 13
October 18, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

Michigan State went toe-to-toe with Indiana (7-0) for the first 20 minutes for the second-straight season. The Spartans owned a 10-7 edge with 9:22 to play in the opening half, before the Hoosiers engineered four-straight touchdown drives to build a 35-10 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Four of IU's six scoring drives covered at least 75 yards, as Fernando Mendoza threw for 332 yards and four touchdowns on 24-of-28 passing. Omar Cooper Jr. logged 115 yards and one touchdown, while Elijah Sarratt hauled in a pair of scoring passes. Rolijah Hardy and Stephen Daley each had 2.0 sacks in the game.

GAME 8
Indiana 56, UCLA 6
October 25, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

E.J. Williams Jr. posted his first-career 100-yard receiving game and pulled in two touchdown passes as Indiana (8-0) cruised to a victory over UCLA. The balanced attack saw the Hoosiers rush for four touchdowns – two by Roman Hemby – and Fernando Mendoza toss three scoring passes. The defense forced three turnovers and held the

GAME 10

Bruins to just 201 yards of total offense in the contest. Roman Hemby rushed for 81 yards and two touchdowns, while both Fernando and Alberto Mendoza each collected rushing touchdowns. Linebacker Aiden Fisher got the scoring started with a 25-yard pick-6 on the game's second play from scrimmage.

GAME 9

Indiana 55, Maryland 10
November 1, 2025
SECU Stadium • College Park, Md.

A short field after an interception gave Maryland the first score of the game on a field goal, but Indiana (9-0) allowed just 23 yards the rest of the first half and led 20-3 at the break. After Fernando Mendoza threw a pick on the third play of the game, the defense held the Terps to a field goal and Mendoza led a 13-play, 93-yard touchdown drive at the end of the first quarter and IU would not look back. Fernando and brother, Alberto, each threw touchdown passes and IU rolled up 367 yards rushing with four scores. The defense forced five turnovers and scored 24 points off the UMD missteps, which included a Devan Boykin 32-yard fumble return for a score.

GAME 10

Indiana 27, Penn State 24
November 8, 2025
West Shore Home Field at Beaver Stadium • University Park, Pa.

It hadn't happened in 13 previous trips, and it looked like victory would elude Indiana (10-0) for a 14th time in Happy Valley. Penn State erased a 20-7 deficit with 17-straight points to take a 24-20 lead with 6:27 to play in the game, capped by a Nick Singleton 19-yard touchdown reception from Ethan Grunkemeyer. After PSU forced a punt by IU on the next drive, the Hoosiers held and used all three timeouts to get the ball back with 1:51 on the clock. After a sack on first down and the clock continuing to tick, IU was never daunted. Completions of 22, 12, 29 and 17 drove IU down to the PSU 7-yard line and with 36 seconds left on the clock, Fernando Mendoza found Omar Cooper Jr. on a toe-tap touchdown in the shadow of the goalpost for an improbable victory.

GAME 11

Indiana 31, Wisconsin 7
November 15, 2025
Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium • Bloomington, Ind.

A 10-7 lead at halftime for Indiana (11-0) wasn't an ideal start to the final home game of the season, but the Hoosiers pitched a second-half shutout and scored three second-half touchdowns to finish its second-straight undefeated home campaign. Fernando Mendoza completed 22-of-24 passes for 229 yards and four touchdowns, and Stephen Daley piled up 3.0 tackles for loss. Mendoza found Charlie Becker, Holden Staes, Riley Nowakowski and Omar Cooper Jr. on scoring passes, and Nico Radicic made a 37-yarder to account for the scoring.

GAME 12

Indiana 56, Purdue 3
November 28, 2025
Ross-Ade Stadium • West Lafayette, Ind.

A second-straight Old Oaken Bucket Game victory capped Indiana's (12-0) first perfect regular season in program history and gave IU its first unblemished road slate in the modern era. IU scored four rushing touchdowns in the first half, capped by an Old Oaken Bucket Game-record 82-yard dash by Roman Hemby with 1:33 to play in the half. Fernando Mendoza then found Elijah Sarratt and Omar Cooper Jr. on a pair of third quarter touchdown strikes. Hemby ran for 152 yards, while Kaelon Black gained 67 and scored twice on the ground. Stephen Daley piled up 4.5 tackles for loss and 1.0 sack.

GAME 13

Indiana 13, Ohio State 10
December 6, 2025
Lucas Oil Stadium • Indianapolis, Ind.

Just the third meeting in a conference championship game between the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the AP Poll saw a prize fight between the Indiana (13-0) and Ohio State defenses. The Buckeyes took a 10-6 lead into the break after turning an interception deep in IU territory into a Carnell Tate 9-yard touchdown pass from Julian Sayin. Fernando Mendoza found Elijah Sarratt on a 17-yard touchdown strike in the third quarter to give IU a 13-10 edge just over 22 minutes left in the game. Ohio State got into the red zone two more times in the game and the IU defense held both times. The Hoosiers held on fourth-and-1 from inside the 5-yard line in the third quarter and then forced a missed field goal in the fourth quarter on the way to its first Big Ten Championship Game victory.

GAME 14

GAME 11

Indiana 38, Alabama 3
January 1, 2026
Rose Bowl Stadium • Pasadena, Calif.

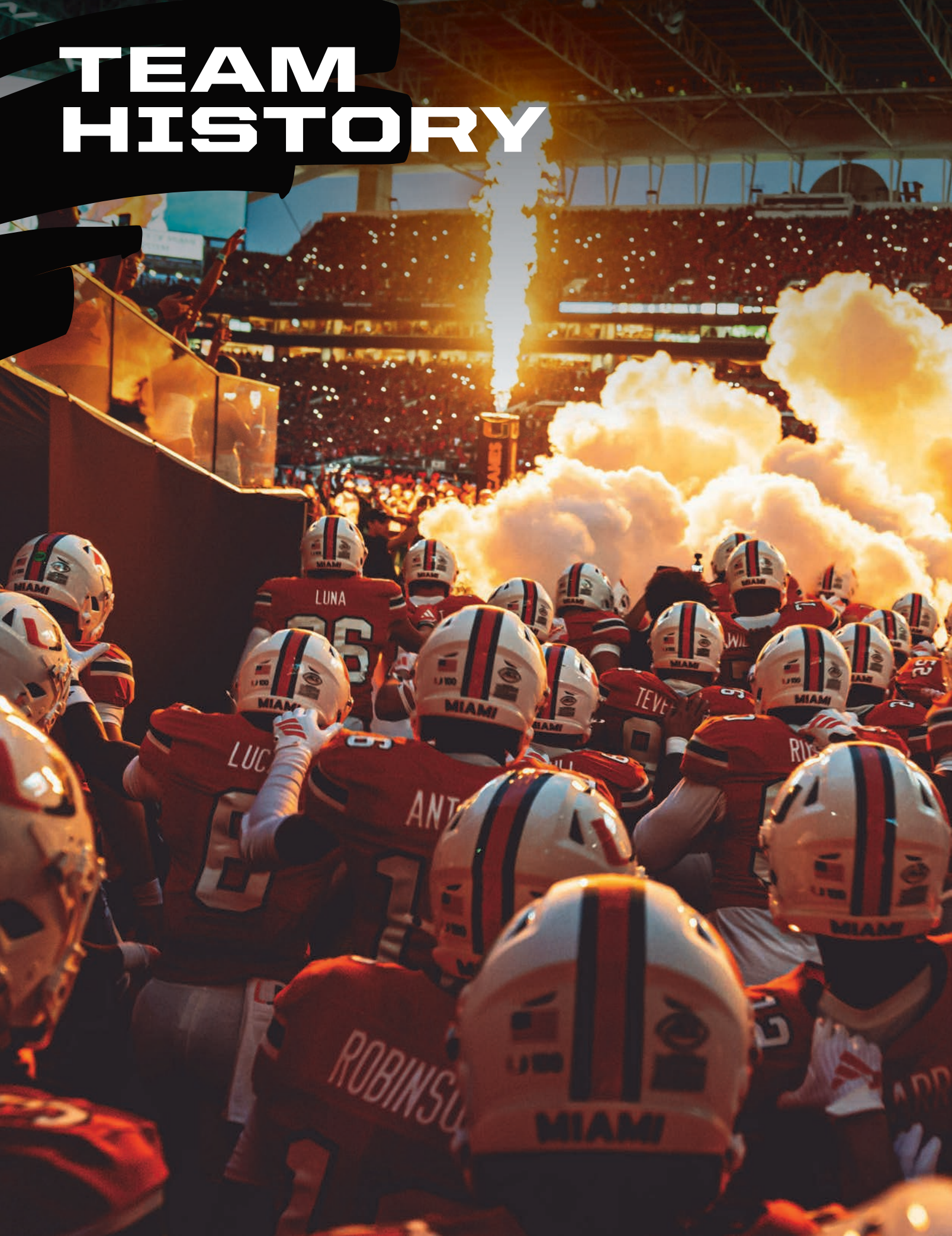
The Granddaddy of Them All came up roses for Indiana (14-0) as the Hoosiers handed Alabama its first 30-point loss of the 21st century in the Rose Bowl, 38-3. IU raced out to a 17-0 halftime lead thanks to touchdown passes for 21 yards to Charlie Becker and 1 yard to Omar Cooper Jr. by Fernando Mendoza. In all, Mendoza completed 14-of-16 passes for a Rose Bowl Game-record .875 completion percentage and threw three touchdown strikes. The defense allowed the third-fewest yards of total offense (193) in a College Football Playoff game all time behind just 23 yards rushing for the Crimson Tide. It was the first Rose Bowl Game win for Indiana and its first victory in the College Football Playoff.

GAME 15

Indiana 56, Oregon 22
January 9, 2026
Mercedes-Benz Stadium • Atlanta, Ga.

Indiana's already impressive march through the College Football Playoff gained momentum as its dominant defense created three first-half touchdowns with turnovers, Fernando Mendoza threw five scoring passes and the Hoosiers overwhelmed No. 5 Oregon 56-22 in the Peach Bowl semifinal. Led by Mendoza and the defense, Indiana is making a case to be considered among the top teams in history. Mendoza completed 17 of 20 passes and five touchdowns, including two to Elijah Sarratt. Indiana's defense didn't wait long to make an impact. On Oregon's first snap, cornerback D'Angelo Ponds intercepted Moore's pass and returned the pick 25 yards for a touchdown. Only 11 seconds into the game, the Hoosiers and their defense already had made a statement this would be a long night for Moore and the Oregon offense.

TEAM HISTORY



UNIVERSITY FOUNDED
1925

LOCATION
Coral Gables, Fla.

ENROLLMENT
19,593

NATIONAL TITLES
5 (1983, 1987, 1989, 1991, 2001)

CONFERENCE TITLES
9

HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS
2 (Vinny Testaverde 1986, Gino Torretta 1992)

ALL-TIME VICTORIES
685

ALL-AMERICANS
79

FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS
66

FAMOUS ALUMNI (NON-FOOTBALL)
Rick Barry
Alix Earle
Gloria Estafan
Ben Folds
Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson
Ray Liotta
Sylvester Stallone
Lauryn Williams

MIAMI HURRICANES

ACC
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE U
GREATNESS
IS WHAT WE DO
ACC | ACCOMPLISH GREATNESS

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

JOSEPH ECHEVARRIA
PRESIDENT/CEO

The University of Miami is one of America's top research universities located in one of the most dynamic and multicultural cities in the world.

More than 19,000 students from around the world are pursuing their academic goals at the University of Miami, a vibrant and diverse community focused on teaching and learning, the discovery of new knowledge, and service to the South Florida region and beyond.

Established in 1925 during the region's famous real estate boom, the University now comprises 12 schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in nearly 350 majors and programs.

With more than $456 million in research and sponsored program expenditures annually, the University of Miami is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). Only 3 percent of four-year institutions in the nation are invited to join the AAU, which recognizes breadth and quality of research and scholarship. While the majority of this work is housed at the Miller School of Medicine, investigators conduct hundreds of studies in other areas, including marine science, engineering, education, and psychology.

MIAMI ATHLETICS

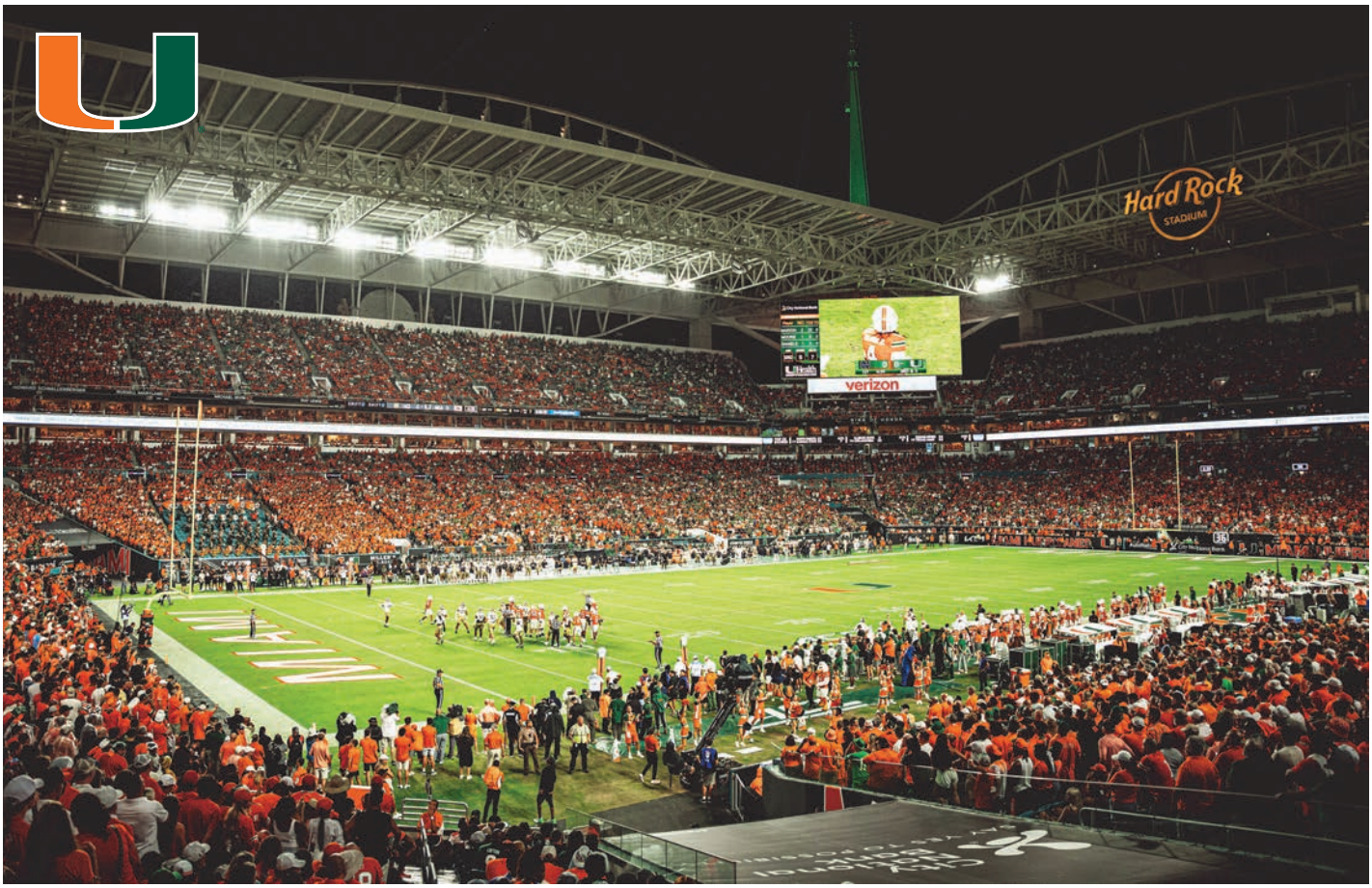
University of Miami Athletics is dedicated to developing and supporting its student-athletes in their efforts to achieve personal, academic, and athletic excellence.

DAN RADAKOVICH
VICE PRESIDENT/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Miami's rich athletics tradition dates back to the school's first classes in the fall of 1926. Miami has since built one of the nation's great athletics programs, one that has won 21 team national championships and 87 individual national championships. UM currently fields teams in 18 sports as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, which Miami joined in 2004 after 13 years in the BIG EAST.

The Hurricanes' football program has captured five national championships (1983, 1987, 1989, 1991, 2001) and has produced two Heisman Trophy winners, 79 All-Americans, 12 College Football Hall of Famers, 11 Pro Football Hall of Famers and 66 first-round NFL draft picks. Miami's baseball program has won four national titles (1983, 1985, 1999, 2001) and advanced to the NCAA Tournament every year from 1973 to 2016, the longest postseason streak in any sport in NCAA history.

Miami has also captured five national championships in women's golf, in addition to four in polo, two in women's swimming and diving and one in men's crew. UM's men's tennis team, which won 137 consecutive matches from 1957-64, still owns the longest NCAA winning streak in any sport. In 2023, Miami's men's basketball program advanced to its first Final Four, while the women's basketball team earned its first Elite Eight berth.



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HEAD COACH

MARIO CRISTOBAL
HEAD COACH

Mario Cristobal, who helped lead the University of Miami to two national championships in 1989 and 1991 as a standout offensive lineman, was named the University's 26th football head coach on December 6, 2021.

In his fourth season at the helm of the Hurricanes in 2025, Cristobal helped elevate Miami to new heights. Miami finished the regular season with a 10-2 record, including a 6-2 mark in ACC play, and earned the No. 10 seed for their maiden appearance in the College Football Playoff. Miami posted back-to-back 10-win seasons for the first time since 2002-2003, had a school-record 19 players earn all-conference honors, and saw three players capture major conference awards: Rueben Bain, Jr. (ACC Defensive Player of the Year), Malachi Toney (ACC Rookie of the Year) and Francis Mauigoa (Jacobs Blocking Trophy).

In his third season leading the Hurricanes in 2024, Cristobal led Miami to its first 10-win season since 2017 and only its second since 2003. 17 Hurricanes earned all-conference recognition under his watch in 2024, as Miami completed its first true undefeated season at home since 2002. At the end of the 2024 regular season, Miami was one of only seven teams in the county to rank in the top 25 of FBS in both total offense and total defense – highlighted by the nation's No. 1 offense by nearly every metric.

The Hurricanes showed tremendous growth from Year 1 (2022) to Year 2 (2023) under Cristobal's direction; Miami was No. 24 in total defense and No. 25 in total offense in all of FBS in 2023, jumping 40 spots in total defense (up from No. 64) and 60 spots in total offense (from No. 85). Miami pulled in the top two recruiting classes in program history in the modern era by every ranking in his two full cycles – the No. 7 class in the nation in 2023 and the No. 4 class in the nation in 2024.

One of college football's most highly regarded coaches, Cristobal returned to his alma mater after leading the University of Oregon to three straight Pac-12 Conference championship game appearances and two Pac-12 titles. At the time of his hiring, he was the only coach in the nation whose team had played in a Power Five conference championship game in his final three seasons.

Cristobal brought more than 20 years of FBS coaching experience to Coral Gables, including 10 as a head coach. He compiled a 35-13 record at Oregon, leading the Ducks to consecutive Pac-12 titles in 2019 and 2020. Oregon advanced to three straight conference championship games from 2019 to 2021 and earned bowl-game appearances in each of Cristobal's seasons in Eugene, highlighted by a Rose Bowl victory that capped a 12-win season and No. 5 ranking in the final Associated Press and AFCA Coaches polls in 2019. Cristobal was named the Associated Press Pac-12 Coach of the Year for his efforts that season.

Over Cristobal's first three seasons in Eugene, Oregon players earned 44 all-conference selections and 14 players were selected in the NFL Draft, including first-round selections in each of the past three drafts. With the selections of Kayvon Thibodeaux (2022), Penei Sewell (2021) and Justin Herbert (2020), Cristobal is one of only two active head coaches to produce top-10 picks in each of the last three drafts.

During his tenure as both an assistant and head coach at Oregon, two players—Noah Sewell and Thibodeaux—earned Pac-12 Defensive Freshman of the Year honors, and three players—Thibodeaux, Penei Sewell, and Tyrell Crosby—earned the Morris Trophy, awarded to the Pac-12's best offensive and defensive linemen. Cristobal served as Oregon's co-offensive coordinator, run-game coordinator, and offensive line coach during the 2017 season before being elevated to head coach.

Cristobal's national title-winning pedigree isn't limited to his time as a player. At Alabama, where he served as assistant head coach, offensive line coach, and recruiting coordinator, he helped lead the Crimson Tide to the national championship in 2015 and a runner-up finish the following season.

During his four years in Tuscaloosa, from 2013 to 2016, five Alabama offensive linemen were selected in the NFL Draft and, with Cristobal's tutelage, the 2015 offensive line unit won the inaugural Joe Moore Award, given to the most outstanding offensive line unit in the nation.

Considered one of the country's elite recruiters and evaluators of talent, Cristobal, during his tenures at both Alabama and Oregon, helped assemble national top-15 recruiting classes eight straight years, with seven of those classes rated in the top 10. The 2018 class at Alabama produced three NFL first-round draft picks. At Oregon, he constructed the Pac-12's top-rated recruiting classes in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Cristobal's move to Miami brings his coaching career full circle. A son of South Florida who played prep football at nearby Christopher Columbus High School, he launched his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at Miami from 1998 to 2000 under head coach Butch Davis. He served as an assistant coach at Rutgers from 2001 to 2003 and then returned to Miami as an assistant coach from 2004 to 2006 under head coach Larry Coker.

In 2007, Cristobal was named head coach at Florida International University, becoming the first Cuban American head coach in FBS history. He inherited a struggling FIU program that had been winless the year before his arrival and, in just his fourth season, led it to the Sun Belt Conference title and a bowl-game victory. That season, 2010, he was named Sun Belt Coach of the Year. In total, he coached six seasons at FIU, from 2007 to 2012.

Cristobal, who played his Hurricanes career under coaches Jimmy Johnson and Dennis Erickson, was an All-Big East selection in 1992. He is a double alumnus of the University of Miami, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree from the University. Cristobal was born in Miami on Sept. 24, 1970. He and his wife, Jessica, married in June 2006 and are the parents of two sons, Mario Mateo and Rocco.

ASSISTANT COACHES

KEVIN BEARD
Wide Receivers

SHANNON DAWSON
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

ZAC ETHERIDGE
Defensive Pass Game Coordinator/
Defensive Backs

WILL HARRIS
Safeties

COREY HETHERMAN
Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers

DANNY KALTER
Special Teams Coordinator

DAMIONE LEWIS
Defensive Tackles

MATT MERRITT
Running Backs

ALEX MIRABAL
Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line

JASON TAYLOR
Defensive Pass Rush Coordinator/Defensive Line

CODY WOODIEL
Tight Ends

MIAMI SPIRIT

The University of Miami Spirit Program has a history dating back to 1925, when the university was founded. Cheerleaders first became part of the Hurricanes athletic experience in 1926 when classes began. Over time, the program expanded to include multiple cheer squads and the official dance team, the Sunsations. Together, these teams bring energy and pride to campus while representing the U at football, men's and women's basketball, and volleyball games. In addition to their game-day responsibilities, the program competes on the national stage. The cheer teams participate annually at the UCA College Nationals, while the Sunsations represent Miami at the UDA College Nationals. These competitions highlight the athleticism, discipline, and performance excellence that define Miami's spirit tradition. In 2022, the Spirit Program entered a new chapter under the leadership of Cecilia Esteban, who became the first full-time Spirit Coordinator and Head Cheerleading Coach in university history. With over two decades of experience in the cheer and dance world, Esteban has brought strong organization, vision, and growth to the program. She leads a cheer staff of six coaches, providing effective support and coverage for all team needs. On the dance side, the Sunsations are led by Head Coach Jonni Rogers and an assistant coach, forming a two-coach structure that strengthens both technique and performance quality. Together, the spirit coaching staff works collaboratively to elevate the standards of the cheer and dance teams, aiming to expand Miami's national presence and continue building a culture of excellence, pride, and tradition.

BUILT HERE.
FELT EVERYWHERE.

For more than a century, the University of Miami has united thinkers, creators, athletes, and healers in a place that inspires innovation.

Today we are a global force for education, patient care, and research—creating a ripple effect that transforms lives across our community and around the world.

miami.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

TASTES LIKE WINNING IT ALL.

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MEET THE HURRICANES

KEELAN
MARION
WR • 6-Y R-Sr.

KEIONTE
SCOTT
DB • 6-Y R-Sr.

MOHAMED
TOURE
LB • 7-Y R-Jr.

JOSHISA "JOJO"
TRADER
WR • So.

DAMARI
BROWN
DB • R-So.

JORDAN
LYLE
RB • So.

AKHEEM
MESIDOR
DL • 6-Y R-Sr.

JOSHUA
MOORE
WR • Fr.

RUEBEN
BAIN JR.
DL • Jr.

MARK
FLETCHER JR.
RB • Jr.

JUSTIN
SCOTT
DL • So.

CHARMAR "MARTY"
BROWN
RB • R-So.

XAVIER
LUCAS
DB • So.

CJ
DANIELS
WR • 6-Y R-Sr.

ZECHARIAH
POYSER
DB • R-So.

JAKOBE
THOMAS
DB • R-Sr.

EMORY
WILLIAMS
QB • R-So.

MALIK
BRYANT
DL • Jr.

ELIJA
LOFTON
TE • So.

MALACHI
TONEY
WR • Fr.

CARSON
BECK
QB • 6-Y R-Sr.

DAVID
BLAY JR.
DL • R-Sr.

MARQUISE
LIGHTFOOT
DL • So.

BRYCE
FITZGERALD
DB • Fr.

MEET THE HURRICANES

14
HAYDEN
LOWE
DL • Fr.

15
JUDD
ANDERSON
QB • R-Fr.

15
DAYLYN
UPSHAW
WR • Fr.

16
JABOREE
ANTOINE
DB • Fr.

16
LUKE
NICKEL
QB • Fr.

17
TONY
JOHNSON
WR • R-Sr.

17
BOBBY
WASHINGTON JR.
LB • R-So.

18
ARMONDO
BLOUNT
DL • So.

18
JOE
BORCHERS
QB • R-So.

18
VINNY
GONZALEZ
QB • Fr.

20
CHRIS
EWALD JR.
DB • Fr.

20
TERRELL
WALDEN II
RB • R-Jr.

21
JAYLIN
ALDERMAN
LB • R-Sr.

22
GIRARD
PRINGLE JR.
RB • R-Fr.

22
CAM "BOBBY"
PRUITT
LB • So.

23
DYLAN
DAY
DB • So.

24
ETHAN
O'CONNOR
DB • R-So.

25
JADAIS
RICHARD
DB • Sr.

25
CHRIS
WHEATLEY-HUMPHREY
RB • R-Fr.

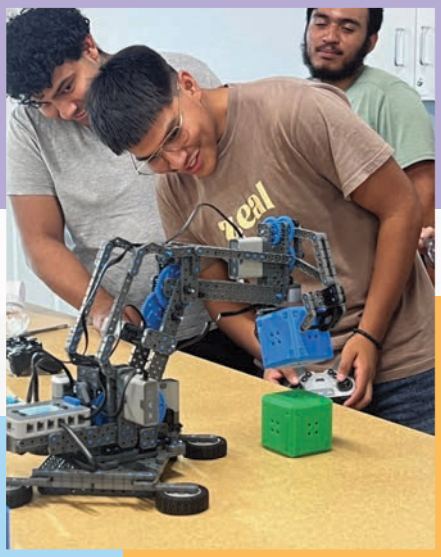
27
RYAN
MACK
DB • R-Fr.

28
ISAIAH
TAYLOR
DB • R-Sr.

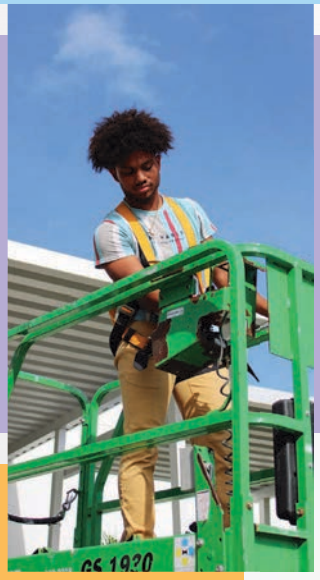
29
ROMANAS "O.J."
FREDERIQUE JR.
DB • So.

30
KELLEN
WILEY JR.
LB • Fr.

31
WESLEY
BISSAINTHE
LB • Sr.



Beyond what you remember, bigger than you imagined.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MARTIN COUNTY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County is more than after-school programs-we're launching futures. From cutting-edge workforce labs and culinary arts to leadership development and career readiness, our Clubs are empowering today's youth to thrive tomorrow.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County is part of a statewide network serving more than 260,000 youth throughout Florida.
www.bgcmartin.org

MEET THE HURRICANES

32
KAMAL
BONNER
LB • R-So.

33
BOOKER
PICKETT
DL • R-Fr.

33
NICK
THOMAS
WR • R-Fr.

34
ADARIUS
HAYES
LB • So.

35
HERBERT "THIRD"
SCROGGINS III
DL • Fr.

35
JACK
WHITEHOUSE
RB • R-Fr.

36
NICK
KELLY
DB • R-Jr.

37
HENRY
PIKUS
WR • R-Jr.

37
AMARI
WALLACE
DB • Fr.

38
CARTER
DAVIS
K • R-Sr.

39
CASEY
RIZZI
LB • R-Fr.

40
BRITON
ALLEN
DB • 7-Y Grad.

40
BRENNAN
BURTON
WR • R-Fr.

41
CHASE
SMITH
LB • R-Sr.

42
ARTAVIUS
JONES
DL • R-Fr.

43
ANDREW
COHEN
WR • R-Sr.

43
TYLER
ROWE
DB • R-Jr.

44
COLE
MCCONATHY II
DL • So.

44
OWEN
RUSKAVICH
TE • R-So.

45
BERT
AUBURN
K • R-Sr.

45
BRAYLON
LAMAR
LB • R-So.

46
ADAM
BOOKER
LS • R-Jr.

46
DYLAN
REIMAN
TE • R-Fr.

47
STONE
STROUD
DB • R-Fr.

Reynolds Wrap

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- Line and cover pans for easy cleanup
- Lock in flavor with easy foil packets
- Wrap and store leftovers

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MEET THE HURRICANES

48
ANDRES
WILLIAMS
DB • R-Fr.

52
JAMES
BROCKERMEYER
OL • R-Sr.

52
JACK
MCMANUS
LB • R-Jr.

54
MICHAEL
DONOVAN
LS • R-Sr.

54
EZEKIEL
MARCELIN JR.
LB • Fr.

55
NINO
FRANCAVILLA
OL • So.

55
MYKAH
NEWTON
DL • Fr.

61
FRANCIS
MAUIGOA
OL • Jr.

62
TOMMY
KINSLER IV
OL • R-So.

63
SAMSON
OKUNLOLA
OL • R-So.

64
RALPH
SCROGGINS
OL • Fr.

65
SEUSEU "S.J".
ALOFAITULI
OL • Fr.

66
MAX
BUCHANAN
OL • Fr.

70
MARKEL
BELL
OL • Sr.

71
JADEN
WILKERSON
OL • Fr.

72
DEMETRIUS
CAMPBELL
OL • Fr.

73
ANEZ
COOPER
OL • Sr.

74
YEROVI
VALDES
OL • R-Fr.

76
RYAN
RODRIGUEZ
OL • R-Sr.

77
JUAN
MINAYA
OL • R-Fr.

SO WHAT MAKES EVERGREEN GOLF CLUB STAND OUT FROM OTHER CLUBS?

Evergreen Golf Club in Tacoma, Washington, stands as one of the nation's largest indoor golf facilities, encompassing 22,000 square feet. This state-of-the-art complex features 13 TrackMan simulator bays, a 7,000-square-foot short game area complete with a putting green and real sand trap, a private event rental room, and a dedicated workspace for members. Co-founded by former Seattle Seahawks receiver Jermaine Kearse and PGA caddie Greg Bodine, the club aims to provide golfers of all skill levels with year-round training opportunities, regardless of weather conditions. Memberships offer access to top-tier technology and professional instruction, fostering a community of golf enthusiasts committed to improving their game.

Visit us at Evergreengolfclub.com for more information and make sure to follow us on Instagram @evergreengolfclub

MEET THE HURRICANES

78
MATTHEW
MCCOY
OL • R-Jr.

79
DERYC
PLAZZ
OL • R-Fr.

80
HUNTER
CARVER
TE • R-Fr.

81
RIPLY
LUNA
WR • R-So.

84
JACK
NICKEL
TE • R-Jr.

85
JACKSON
CARVER
TE • R-So.

86
KOLBY
LUNA
WR • R-So.

87
ALEX
BAUMAN
TE • Sr.

88
LUKA
GILBERT
TE • Fr.

92
SAM
COUFAL
DL • R-So.

94
DYLAN
JOYCE
P • Jr.

96
TUCKER
TEVEPAUGH
P • R-Fr.

97
WILLIAM
ROCHA
K • R-So.

99
AHMAD
MOTEN SR.
DL • R-Jr.

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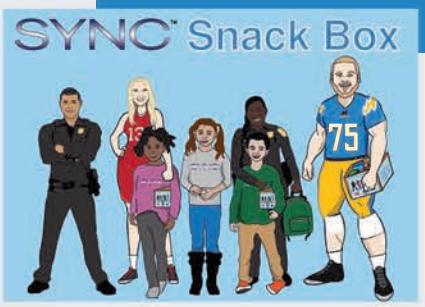

The Bradley and Nikki Bozeman Foundation's mission is to provide much needed food, education, and opportunities to children living in underserved communities through the SYNC (Supporting Your Neighbors and Communities) Snack Program.

Community & Education

Impact & Food Assistance

The SYNC Snack Program consists of kid-friendly, shelf stable foods including easy open pasta cups, nutrigrain bars, mini cereal boxes, shelf-stable milk, fruit cups, pop tarts and more. This essential food is paired with QR codes placed on the back of the boxes that include academic help, after school programs, housing opportunities, and additional food resources. The SYNC Snack boxes are then put into the back of police cars for the officers to use as an olive branch to connect with kids on their routes.

The response we have received from not only the officers but the kids who are receiving these boxes is life changing. One little girl said she didn't know girls could be police officers and now she wants to be a police officer like Officer LaMonica so she can help feed kids too! Our goal with our SYNC Snack program is to change our community one box at a time!

If you would like to get involved or learn more

please scan the QR code to check out our website

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ROSTERS

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
21	Jaylin Alderman	LB	6-1	230	R-Sr.	Valdosta, Ga. / Louisville / Valdosta
40	Briton Allen	DB	6-0	190	7-Y Grad.	Orlando, Fla. / IMG Academy / Utah / USC
65	Seuseu "S.J." Alofaituli	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev. / Bishop Gorman
15	Judd Anderson	QB	6-7	230	R-Fr.	Warner Robins, Ga. / Warner Robins
16	Jaboree Antoine	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	New Iberia, La. / Westgate
45	Bert Auburn	K	6-0	185	R-Sr.	Flower Mound, Tx. / Flower Mound / Texas
4	Rueben Bain, Jr.	DL	6-3	270	Jr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central
87	Alex Bauman	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	Red Bank, N.J. / Red Bank Catholic / Tulane
11	Carson Beck	QB	6-4	225	6-Y R-Sr.	Jacksonville, Fla. / Mandarin / Georgia
70	Markel Bell	OL	6-8	345	Sr.	Cleveland, Miss. / Cleveland Central / Holmes C.C.
31	Wesley Bissainthe	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central
11	David Blay, Jr.	DL	6-4	305	R-Sr.	Levittown, Pa. / West Chester / Harry S. Truman / La. Tech
18	Armondo Blount	DL	6-4	265	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Miami Central
32	Kamal Bonner	LB	6-2	215	R-So.	Moultrie, Ga. / Colquitt County / NC State
46	Adam Booker	LS	6-4	215	R-Jr.	Holly Springs, N.C. / Middle Creek / Charlotte
18	Joe Borchers	QB	6-3	230	R-So.	Sarasota, Fla. / Riverview
52	James Brockermeyer	OL	6-3	295	R-Sr.	Fort Worth, Texas / All Saints Episcopal / TCU / Alabama
2	Damari Brown	DB	6-2	195	R-So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / American Heritage
6	CharMar "Marty" Brown	RB	5-11	220	R-So.	Omaha, Neb. / Creighton Prep North Dakota State
9	Malik Bryant	DL	6-2	240	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. / Jones
66	Max Buchanan	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	Sanford, Fla. / Seminole
40	Brennan Burton	WR	6-0	205	R-Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va. / Norfolk Christian
72	Demetrius Campbell	OL	6-6	330	Fr.	Orlando, Fla. / Orlando Christian Prep
80	Hunter Carver	TE	6-4	245	R-Fr.	Woodbury, Minn. / Saint Thomas Academy
85	Jackson Carver	TE	6-6	250	R-So.	Woodbury, Minn. / Culver Academy
43	Andrew Cohen	WR	6-2	205	R-Sr.	Mahopac, N.Y. / Mahopac
73	Anez Cooper	OL	6-4	345	Sr.	Pleasant Grove, Ala. / Pleasant Grove
92	Sam Coufal	DL	6-2	270	R-So.	Wales, Wisc. / Kettle Moraine
7	CJ Daniels	WR	6-2	205	6-Y R-Sr.	Lilburn, Ga. / Parkview / Liberty / LSU
38	Carter Davis	K	6-0	220	R-Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Western / FAU
23	Dylan Day	DB	6-0	185	So.	Baton Rouge, La. / Southern University Lab
54	Michael Donovan	LS	6-3	210	R-Sr.	Beverly Hills, Mich. / Seaholm / Michigan State /
20	Chris Ewald, Jr.	DB	6-1	175	Fr.	Sunrise, Fla. / Chaminade Madonna
13	Bryce Fitzgerald	DB	6-1	185	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Christopher Columbus
4	Mark Fletcher, Jr.	RB	6-2	225	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / American Heritage
55	Nino Francavilla	OL	6-2	300	So.	Ontario, Canada / Cheshire Academy [Conn.]
29	Romanas "O.J." Frederique, Jr.	DB	6-0	185	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / St. Thomas Aquinas
88	Luka Gilbert	TE	6-7	255	Fr.	West Chester, Ohio / Lakota West
18	Vinny Gonzalez	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Christopher Columbus
34	Adarius Hayes	LB	6-4	230	So.	Largo, Fla. / Largo
17	Tony Johnson	WR	5-10	185	R-Sr.	Ocala, Fla. / Vanguard / / Cincinnati / FAU
42	Artavius Jones	DL	6-3	305	R-Fr.	Blountstown, Fla. / Blountstown
94	Dylan Joyce	P	6-2	215	Jr.	Kyabram, Australia / Assumption College
36	Nick Kelly	DB	5-10	195	R-Jr.	Santa Rosa, Calif. / Cardinal Newman
62	Tommy Kinsler IV	OL	6-6	340	R-So.	Ocala, Fla. / Trinity Catholic
45	Braylon Lamar	LB	6-0	215	R-So.	Cary, N.C. / Panther Creek
12	Marquise Lightfoot	DL	6-5	230	So.	Chicago, Ill. / Kenwood Academy
9	Elija Lofton	TE	6-2	242	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. / Bishop Gorman
14	Hayden Lowe	DL	6-5	255	Fr.	Los Angeles, Calif. / Oaks Christian
6	Xavier Lucas	DB	6-2	198	So.	Pompano Beach, Fla. / American Heritage / Wisconsin
81	Riply Luna	WR	6-2	215	R-So.	Kellogg, Idaho / Kellogg
86	Kolby Luna	WR	6-2	215	R-So.	Kellogg, Idaho / Kellogg
2	Jordan Lyle	RB	6-0	205	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / St. Thomas Aquinas
27	Ryan Mack	DB	5-11	175	R-Fr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / St. Thomas Aquinas
54	Ezekiel Marcelin, Jr.	LB	5-11	230	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.
0	Keelan Marion	WR
0	Keionte Scott	DB
1	Mohamed Toure	LB
1	Joshisa "Jojo" Trader	WR
2	Damari Brown	DB
2	Jordan Lyle	RB
3	Akheem Mesidor	DL
3	Joshua Moore	WR
4	Rueben Bain, Jr.	DL
4	Mark Fletcher, Jr.	RB
5	Justin Scott	DL
6	CharMar "Marty" Brown	RB
6	Xavier Lucas	DB
7	CJ Daniels	WR
7	Zechariah Poyser	DB
8	Jakobe Thomas	DB
8	Emory Williams	QB
9	Malik Bryant	DL
9	Elija Lofton	TE
10	Malachi Toney	WR
11	Carson Beck	QB
11	David Blay, Jr.	DL
12	Marquise Lightfoot	DL
13	Bryce Fitzgerald	DB
14	Hayden Lowe	DL
15	Judd Anderson	QB
15	Daylyn Upshaw	WR
16	Jaboree Antoine	DB
16	Luke Nickel	QB
17	Tony Johnson	WR
17	Bobby Washington, Jr.	LB
18	Armondo Blount	DL
18	Joe Borchers	QB
18	Vinny Gonzalez	QB
20	Chris Ewald, Jr.	DB
20	Terrell Walden II	RB
21	Jaylin Alderman	LB
22	Girard Pringle, Jr.	RB
22	Cam "Bobby" Pruitt	LB
23	Dylan Day	DB
24	Ethan O'Connor	DB
25	Jadais Richard	DB
25	Chris Wheatley-Humphrey	RB
27	Ryan Mack	DB
28	Isaiah Taylor	DB
29	Romanas "O.J." Frederique, Jr.	DB
30	Kellen Wiley, Jr.	LB
31	Wesley Bissainthe	LB
32	Kamal Bonner	LB
33	Booker Pickett	DL
33	Nick Thomas	WR
34	Adarius Hayes	LB
35	Herbert "Third" Scroggins III	DL
35	Jack Whitehouse	RB
36	Nick Kelly	DB

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ROSTERS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.
37	Henry Pikus	WR
37	Amari Wallace	DB
38	Carter Davis	K
39	Casey Rizzi	LB
40	Briton Allen	DB
40	Brennan Burton	WR
41	Chase Smith	LB
42	Artavius Jones	DL
43	Andrew Cohen	WR
43	Tyler Rowe	DB
44	Cole McConathy II	DL
44	Owen Ruskavich	TE
45	Bert Auburn	K
45	Braylon Lamar	LB
46	Adam Booker	LS
46	Dylan Reiman	TE
47	Stone Stroud	DB
48	Andres Williams	DB
52	James Brockermeyer	OL
52	Jack McManus	LB
54	Michael Donovan	LS
54	Ezekiel Marcelin, Jr.	LB
55	Nino Francavilla	OL
55	Mykah Newton	DL
61	Francis Mauigoa	OL
62	Tommy Kinsler IV	OL
63	Samson Okunlola	OL
64	Ralph Scroggins	OL
65	Seuseu "S.J." Alofaituli	OL
66	Max Buchanan	OL
70	Markel Bell	OL
71	Jaden Wilkerson	OL
72	Demetrius Campbell	OL
73	Anez Cooper	OL
74	Yerovi Valdes	OL
76	Ryan Rodriguez	OL
77	Juan Minaya	OL
78	Matthew McCoy	OL
79	Deryc Plazz	OL
80	Hunter Carver	TE
81	Riply Luna	WR
84	Jack Nickel	TE
85	Jackson Carver	TE
86	Kolby Luna	WR
87	Alex Bauman	TE
88	Luka Gilbert	TE
92	Sam Coufal	DL
93	Donta Simpson, Jr.	DL
94	Dylan Joyce	P
96	Tucker Tevepaugh	P
97	William Rocha	K
99	Ahmad Moten, Sr.	DL

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
0	Keelan Marion	WR	6-0	195	6-Y R-Sr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Palmetto Prep / UConn / BYU
61	Francis Mauigoa	OL	6-6	335	Jr.	‘Ili‘ili, American Samoa / IMG Academy [Fla.]
44	Cole McConathy II	DL	6-5	250	So.	Spanish Fort, Ala. / Spanish Fort
78	Matthew McCoy	OL	6-6	325	R-Jr.	Saint Augustine, Fla. / Creekside
52	Jack McManus	LB	6-2	230	R-Jr.	Wallingford, Conn. / Choate Rosemary Hall / Merrimack
3	Akheem Mesidor	DL	6-3	265	6-Y R-Sr.	Ottawa, Ontario / Clearwater Academy [Fla.] / West Virginia
77	Juan Minaya	OL	6-5	335	R-Fr.	Paramus, N.J. / Paramus Catholic
3	Joshua Moore	WR	6-4	215	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / West Broward
99	Ahmad Moten, Sr.	DL	6-3	300	R-Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Cardinal Gibbons
55	Mykah Newton	DL	6-3	275	Fr.	Gainesville, Fla. / Newberry
16	Luke Nickel	QB	6-2	220	Fr.	Milton, Ga. / Milton
84	Jack Nickel	TE	6-4	250	R-Jr.	Milton, Ga. / Milton / Michigan State / UAB
24	Ethan O’Connor	DB	6-1	180	R-So.	Irvine, Calif. / / Los Alamitos / Washington State
63	Samson Okunlola	OL	6-6	330	R-So.	Brockton, Mass. / Thayer Academy
33	Booker Pickett	DL	6-3	230	R-Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Wharton
37	Henry Pikus	WR	6-2	175	R-Jr.	Miami, Fla. / UC Santa Cruz / / Milton Academy
79	Deryc Plazz	OL	6-4	310	R-Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla. / Mandarin
7	Zechariah Poyser	DB	6-2	200	R-So.	Wildwood, Fla. / Wildwood / Jacksonville State
22	Girard Pringle, Jr.	RB	5-10	190	R-Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Armwood
22	Cam "Bobby" Pruitt	LB	6-2	210	So.	Theodore, Ala. / Theodore
46	Dylan Reiman	TE	6-6	245	R-Fr.	Jupiter, Fla. / Dwyer
25	Jadais Richard	DB	6-1	195	Sr.	West Monroe, La. / West Monroe Vanderbilt
39	Casey Rizzi	LB	6-0	225	R-Fr.	Metairie, La. / Metairie Park
97	William Rocha	K	5-11	185	R-So.	Mandeville, La. / Fontainebleau
76	Ryan Rodriguez	OL	6-2	300	R-Sr.	Miami, Fla. / Christopher Columbus
43	Tyler Rowe	DB	5-11	185	R-Jr.	Loganville, Ga. / Grayson / Georgia Tech /
44	Owen Ruskavich	TE	6-7	255	R-So.	Great Falls, Va. / St. John’s College High School [D.C.]
0	Keionte Scott	DB	6-0	195	6-Y R-Sr.	San Diego, Calif. / Helix / Snow College / Auburn
5	Justin Scott	DL	6-4	303	So.	Chicago, Ill. / St. Ignatius Prep
35	Herbert "Third" Scroggins III	DL	6-3	245	Fr.	Savannah, Ga. / Benedictine Military School
64	Ralph Scroggins	OL	6-1	275	Fr.	Savannah, Ga. / Benedictine Military School
93	Donta Simpson, Jr.	DL	6-3	300	Fr.	Hollywood, Fla. / Chaminade Madonna
41	Chase Smith	LB	6-2	240	R-Sr.	Palm Bay, Fla. / Bayside
47	Stone Stroud	DB	5-8	160	R-Fr.	Coral Gables, Fla. / Palmer Trinity School
28	Isaiah Taylor	DB	5-11	200	R-Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / St. Thomas Aquinas / Arizona
96	Tucker Tevepaugh	P	5-11	200	R-Fr.	Bluffton, S.C. / Hilton Head Christian Academy
8	Jakobe Thomas	DB	6-2	200	R-Sr.	Tullahoma, Tenn. / Tullahoma / MTSU / Tennessee
33	Nick Thomas	WR	5-8	170	R-Fr.	Missouri City, Texas / Ridgepoint
10	Malachi Toney	WR	5-11	188	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / American Heritage
1	Mohamed Toure	LB	6-2	235	7-Y R-Jr.	Pleasantville, N.J. / Pleasantville / Rutgers
1	Joshisa "Jojo" Trader	WR	6-1	182	So.	Opa-Locka, Fla. / Chaminade Madonna
15	Daylyn Upshaw	WR	6-0	195	Fr.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central
74	Yerovi Valdes	OL	6-7	340	R-Fr.	Sarasota, Fla. / Cardinal Mooney
20	Terrell Walden II	RB	5-9	180	R-Jr.	Winter Garden, Fla. / West Orange
37	Amari Wallace	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central
17	Bobby Washington, Jr.	LB	6-3	225	R-So.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Palmetto
25	Chris Wheatley-Humphrey	RB	6-0	200	R-Fr.	Dania Beach, Fla. / South Broward
35	Jack Whitehouse	RB	5-10	195	R-Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Gulliver Prep
30	Kellen Wiley, Jr.	LB	6-4	235	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Armwood
71	Jaden Wilkerson	OL	6-6	335	Fr.	Orlando, Fla. / Edgewater
48	Andres Williams	DB	5-10	175	R-Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Palmer Trinity School
8	Emory Williams	QB	6-5	225	R-So.	Milton, Fla. / Milton

HOW THEY GOT HERE

GAME 1
Miami 27, Notre Dame 24
August 31, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

Before a sold-out, orange-clad crowd of 66,793 at Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami Hurricanes defeated the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in a 27-24 thriller and statement victory. Carter Davis kicked two field goals, including a 47-yarder with 1:04 remaining that broke a 24-24 tie. Miami's defense held from there, sacking Notre Dame quarterback CJ Carr on the final two snaps of the game. Quarterback Carson Beck completed 20 of 31 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns in his Miami debut. Miami's defense forced two turnovers, posted three sacks and held Notre Dame's vaunted rushing attack to just 93 yards on 28 carries.

GAME 2
Miami 45, Bethune-Cookman 3
September 6, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

Playing on a short week after an emotional victory, the Miami Hurricanes returned to Hard Rock Stadium and delivered just the performance they needed. The fifth-ranked Canes were ruthlessly efficient on offense, stingy on defense and controlled the game from start to finish, defeating Bethune-Cookman 45-3 before a crowd of 60,617. The Canes racked up 543 yards, averaging 8.4 yards per play and scoring on all five of their red zone trips. Quarterback Carson Beck completed his first 15 passes, setting a school record for consecutive completions in a single game. Miami's defense kept the Wildcats out of the end zone and held BCU to 191 total yards, yielding just 3.8 yards per play.

GAME 1

GAME 3
Miami 49, USF 12
September 13, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

Fifth-ranked Miami defeated No. 18 USF 49-12 before a sellout crowd of 66,591 that was treated to the Canes' ninth straight home win. Miami racked up 576 total yards and held a 12-minute advantage in time of possession. Running back Mark Fletcher rushed for 120 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 7.5 yards per carry. Miami's defense held USF to just 40 rushing yards. Defensive ends Akheem Mesidor and Rueben Bain each posted six tackles. Safety Bryce Fitzgerald picked off a pass for the second straight game, and linebacker Chase Smith recovered a fumble.

GAME 4
Miami 26, Florida 7
September 20, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

The Hurricanes conducted a defensive masterclass from start to finish, defeating the Florida Gators 26-7. The Canes' defense held UF to just 141 total yards while racking up four sacks and seven tackles for loss. Linebacker Mohamed Toure led the onslaught with 10 tackles and a sack. Meanwhile, the Canes racked up 344 total yards on 76 plays. Running back Mark Fletcher rushed for 116 yards and one touchdown and fellow back Marty Brown rushed for 80 yards and two scores. Quarterback Carson Beck completed 17 of 30 passes for 160 yards and one interception. Four Canes tied for the team lead with four receptions.

GAME 5
Miami 28, Florida State 22
October 4, 2025
Doak S. Campbell Stadium • Tallahassee, Fla.

In their first road test of 2025, the third-ranked Canes defeated No. 18 Florida State 28-22. It was the first ranked meeting between the teams since 2016, and the Canes now own a 37-33 lead in the series. The Seminoles entered the game with the nation's best scoring offense (53 points per game) and total offense (600 yards per game) but were held to 404 total yards. Cornerback Keionte Scott paced Miami's defense with 11 tackles and had a fumble recovery. Meanwhile, quarterback Carson Beck, who has played in his share of unwelcoming road environments, completed 20 of 27 passes for 241 yards and threw four touchdown passes – two each to wide receivers CJ Daniels and Malachi Toney.

GAME 6
Louisville 24, Miami 21
October 17, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

The Louisville Cardinals forced four turnovers to hold off the second-ranked Miami Hurricanes 24-21. Louisville reclaimed the Schnellenberger Trophy, a pair of bronzed boots worn by legendary coach Howard Schnellenberger, who served as the head coach for both programs. Louisville's defense limited the Canes to 64 rushing yards and picked off quarterback Carson Beck four times. Cardinals running back Isaac Brown rushed for 113 yards on 15 carries, and quarterback Miller Moss threw for 248 yards and two scores – both to wide receiver Chris Bell, who amassed 136 yards on nine grabs. Miami Wide receiver Malachi Toney had another monster performance, hauling in nine passes for 135 yards and scoring on a 12-yard run.

GAME 7
Miami 42, Stanford 7
October 25, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

After yielding 74 yards and a touchdown on their opening drive, the Miami Hurricanes delivered a defensive performance for the ages against the Stanford Cardinal. Stanford wouldn't score again and could only muster 70 yards the rest of the game. The result was a comfortable 42-7 win for the ninth-ranked Canes. The Canes scored touchdowns on five of their six second half possessions to blow open a game that was knotted 7-7 at halftime. Running back Mark Fletcher racked up 106 yards and set a career-high with three touchdowns. Cornerback Keionte Scott paced the Canes with five tackles, while fellow corner Xavier Lucas and linebacker Wesley Bissainthe each had interceptions.

GAME 8
SMU 26, Miami 20 (OT)
November 1, 2025
Gerald J. Ford Stadium • Dallas, Texas

After the Miami Hurricanes and SMU Mustangs slogged through a dreary first half in Big D, the sun came out at halftime. So, too did the fireworks. A scintillating second half gave way to overtime, where the Mustangs forced a turnover and followed it up with the game-winning touchdown to defeat the Canes 26-20 Saturday at Gerald J. Ford Stadium. The Canes outgained the Mustangs 433-388 in total yards – holding SMU to just 23 yards on the ground — and held a 14-minute margin in time of possession. But

GAME 9

Miami's 12 penalties and two turnovers proved costly as the Mustangs won the game and their fans rushed the field.

GAME 9
Miami 38, Syracuse 10
November 8, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

Riding a dominant defense and a big-play offense, the Miami Hurricanes dictated play from start to finish, rolling past the Syracuse Orange 38-10. The Canes scored two touchdowns in a 23-second spurt late in the first half to break open a scoreless game. Miami's defense held the Orange to 285 total yards, forced three turnovers and racked up seven sacks and 11 tackles for loss. Safety Jakobe Thomas had a monster game with five tackles, one sack, one fumble recovery and an interception. Quarterback Carson Beck completed 18 of 24 passes for 247 yards and one touchdown and caught his first career pass from wide receiver Malachi Toney for a 14-yard score.

GAME 10
Miami 41, NC State 7
November 15, 2025
Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla.

The Canes rode a punishing defense and a ruthlessly efficient offense to a 41-7 statement win over the NC State Wolfpack. Miami dominated the scoresheet on all fronts, outgaining NC State 581-149 in total yards, averaging 8.3 yards per play, owning a 13:26 margin in time of possession and converting all five red zone trips. Running back Girard Pringle posted his first career 100-yard rushing effort, gaining 116 yards on 17 carries. Wide receiver Malachi Toney caught five passes for 54 yards and two scores and completed a 44-yard pass. Safety Jakobe Thomas returned an interception for a score, giving the Canes pick sixes in consecutive games for the first time in eight years.

GAME 11
Miami 34, Virginia Tech 17
November 22, 2025
Lane Stadium • Blacksburg, Va.

The mood was festive at Lane Stadium Saturday as Virginia Tech honored its seniors and introduced a new head coach. But the Miami Hurricanes quickly extinguished any hopes for the Hokie faithful, jumping on the home team early and cruising to a 34-17 victory. It was the Canes' fifth straight win over the Hokies dating back to 2020. Miami gobbled up 418 total yards as quarterback Carson Beck methodically carved up Tech's secondary, completing 27 of 32 passes for 320 yards and four touchdowns. Safety Zechariah Poyser racked up 10 tackles, one sack and a fumble recovery, while defensive end Akheem Mesidor recorded five stops, one sack and two forced fumbles.

GAME 12
Miami 38, Pittsburgh 7
November 29, 2025
Acrisure Stadium • Pittsburgh, Pa.

The No. 13 Canes dominated No. 24 Pitt 38-7 in the regular season finale for both teams. After trailing 7-3 early, Miami scored the game's final 35 points. Wide receiver Malachi Toney continued his dazzling maiden campaign, hauling in 13 passes for 126 yards and one touchdown. He also threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to tight end Elijah Lofton and rushed for 30 yards. Toney now holds the school's single-season record for receiving yards by a freshman (970), breaking Ahmmon Richards' nine-year mark. Miami's defense limited the Panthers to 229 total yards, including just 30 on the ground. Defensive end Rueben Bain racked up five tackles and 1.5 sacks, while defensive tackle Ahmad Moten also posted 1.5 sacks.

GAME 13
Miami 10, Texas A&M 3
December 20, 2025
Kyle Field • College Station, Texas

Riding a career day from running back Mark Fletcher, Jr., and a masterclass by their defense, the Canes defeated Texas A&M 10-3 before a crowd of 104,122 at Kyle Field. No. 10 Miami improved to 11-2, advancing to the CFP quarterfinals to face second-seeded Ohio State on New Year's Eve in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl. Fletcher rushed for a career-high 172 yards and Miami's defense delivered a Herculean effort, forcing three turnovers and holding an Aggies offense that entered the game averaging 36.3 points per game to just a field goal. Safety Bryce Fitzgerald picked off two passes, including the game-sealing interception in the end zone when the Aggies were looking to drive for the tying score.

GAME 13

GAME 14
Miami 24, Ohio State 14
December 31, 2025
AT&T Stadium • Arlington, Texas

Riding another emphatic defensive performance, the Canes jumped out to an early lead and held on late for a 24-14 victory over second-ranked and defending national champion Ohio State in the College Football Playoff quarterfinals at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl. No. 10 Miami improved to 12-2, advancing to the CFP Semifinal at the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl on January 8 and notching its first dozen-win campaign since 2002. The Canes' defense forced two turnovers – including a pick six by cornerback Keionte Scott – racked up five sacks and held the Buckeyes to just 45 rushing yards. Meanwhile, the offense put together two impressive touchdown drives, including a game-sealing march late in the fourth quarter.

GAME 15
Miami 31, Ole Miss 27
January 8, 2026
State Farm Stadium • Glendale, Ariz.

In an instant college football classic, the Miami Hurricanes executed a touchdown drive for the ages and in the process exorcised some desert demons. Their reward? One more game back home for a chance to capture the program's sixth national championship. No. 10 Miami defeated No. 6 Ole Miss 31-27 Thursday night at the CFP Semifinal at the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz. After Ole Miss had rallied to take a 27-24 lead, quarterback Carson Beck led the Canes on a 15-play, 75-yard touchdown drive, capping it with a three-yard rushing score with 18 seconds remaining. Beck, the Fiesta Bowl Offensive Player of the Game, completed 23 of 37 passes for 268 yards with two touchdowns. Running back Mark Fletcher, Jr., continued his remarkable postseason with 133 yards on 22 carries.

GAME REWIND

OHIO STATE
2025
CHAMPIONS

MERGING® VETS & PLAYERS

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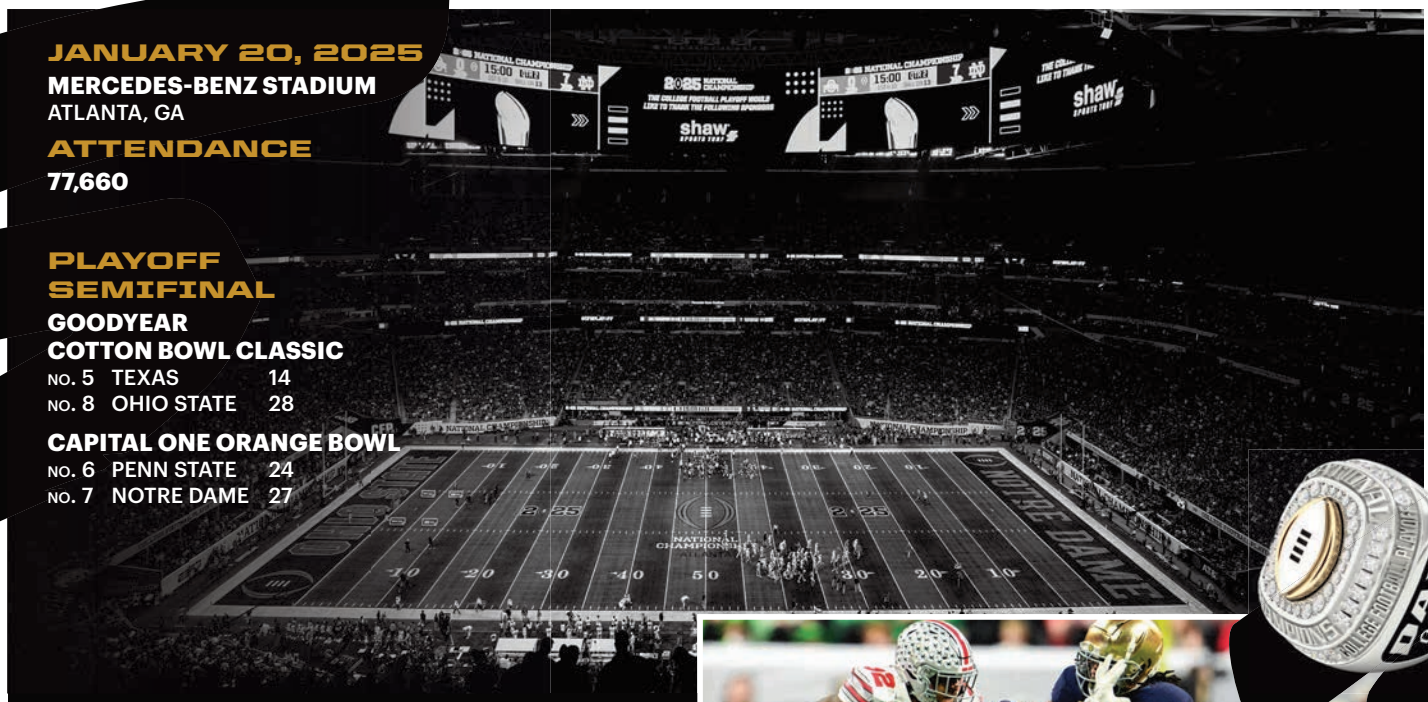
SCAN ME

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
ATLANTA 2025

NO. 8 **34** OHIO STATE VS NOTRE DAME **NO. 7 23**



JANUARY 20, 2025
MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM
ATLANTA, GA

ATTENDANCE
77,660

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC

NO. 5	TEXAS	14
NO. 8	OHIO STATE	28

CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL

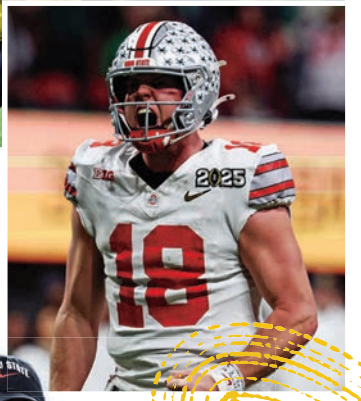
NO. 6	PENN STATE	24
NO. 7	NOTRE DAME	27

NATIONAL ANTHEM
COCO JONES

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
WILL HOWARD
OHIO STATE

DEFENSE
CODY SIMON
OHIO STATE



Ohio State once again celebrated a national title after holding off a Notre Dame comeback bid to walk away with a 34-23 victory over the Fighting Irish.

Will Howard hit big-play receiver Jeremiah Smith for 56 yards on a late third-and-11 to lock down a game that had been a laugher, then turned into something else. Trailing 31-7, Notre Dame scored two touchdowns and two 2-point conversions to make it a onescore game late in the fourth quarter. The Irish stopped Ohio State on the first two plays of the next drive and used their timeouts to also stop the clock. But on third down, Howard found Smith in single coverage on the right sideline and dropped his best pass of the season into the hands of the second-team All-American.

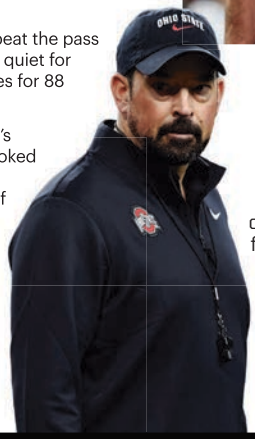
It set up a field goal that started the celebration in earnest, closing out a seven-week climb from the depths of a loss to rival Michigan to the top of college football. Ohio State brought home its sixth national championship to the Horseshoe in Columbus and first since the inaugural CFP National Championship in the 2014-15 season.

Howard, a transfer-portal success story from Kansas State, threw for 231 yards and two scores, but nothing will beat the pass to Smith with everything on the line. The receiver, who had been bottled up by Texas in the semifinals then fairly quiet for most of the title game, finally got loose for the kind of play he's been making all year. He finished with five catches for 88 yards.

When Quinshon Judkins (100 yards, 11 carries, three TDs), a transfer from Mississippi who highlighted Ohio State's judicious use of the ever-growing portal, busted a 70-yard run to set up the score that made it 28-7, this game looked over. Really, though, Ohio State was the better team. The Buckeyes outgained Notre Dame 445 yards to 308. Howard completed his first 13 passes and never really got stopped. The proof: Ohio State punted a grand total of once.

The Buckeyes rolled through four games in the new, 12-team playoff — what great timing for Ohio State — by a combined score of 145-85.

Head Coach Ryan Day joins a list of title-winning coaches with Urban Meyer, Jim Tressel, Woody Hayes and Paul Brown. Also, Day's .873 winning percentage is third all-time among coaches with 50-plus games — one spot behind none other than the Notre Dame legend Knute Rockne, himself. This marked the first time the Big Ten has taken back-to-back titles since 1942. Last year's champion was Michigan, which was sitting home watching this one, but still played a special role in a Buckeyes redemption story hardly anyone saw coming.



"We just felt like in this game the No. 1 goal was to win. That's where it started on offense, defense and special teams, find a way to win the game, and that's what we did here in the playoff."

OHIO STATE HEAD COACH
RYAN DAY

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
HOUSTON 2024

NO. 1 **34** vs **13** NO. 2

JANUARY 8, 2024
NRG STADIUM
HOUSTON, TEXAS

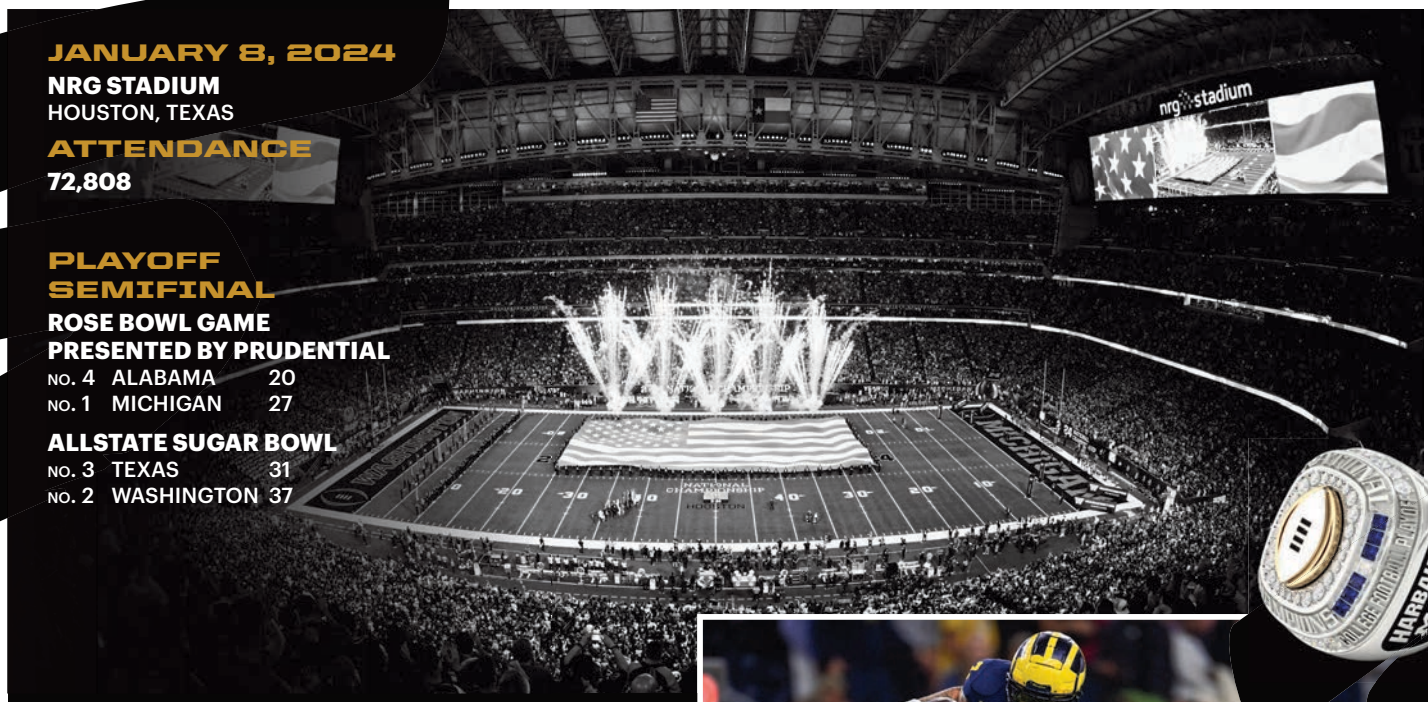
ATTENDANCE
72,808

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY PRUDENTIAL

NO. 4	ALABAMA	20
NO. 1	MICHIGAN	27

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

NO. 3	TEXAS	31
NO. 2	WASHINGTON	37



NATIONAL ANTHEM
FANTASIA

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
BLAKE CORUM
MICHIGAN

DEFENSE
WILL JOHNSON
MICHIGAN

The No. 1 Michigan Wolverines defeated the No. 2 Washington Huskies, 34-13, capturing the program's first national championship in the College Football Playoff era, first overall national title since 1997 and 12th in program history.

Michigan rushed for 303 yards, including 229 in the first quarter alone behind 41 and 46-yard touchdown runs by Donovan Edwards, both of which rank second and third-longest ever in the CFP National Championship. Edwards, who is the first player to run for multiple 40+ yard touchdowns in the national championship game, finished the outing with 104 rushing yards and joined fellow RB Blake Corum in the century club. Corum racked up 134 yards, including two fourth-quarter TDs to seal the victory and be voted the Offensive Player of the Game. It was the first time in CFP history that a team produced multiple 100-yard rushers in the national championship game.

The Wolverines, who appeared in the Playoff Semifinals the previous two seasons, held Washington to one passing touchdown, while also allowing only 46 rushing yards from the Huskies. All 15 of Michigan's opponents were held under 25 points per game, making UM the first FBS team to limit 15 different teams under that threshold in a single season since Minnesota in 1903.

Sophomore DB Will Johnson was named Defensive Player of the Game after picking off a Washington pass to open the second half and collecting four total tackles, including a pair of solo stops. Fellow DB Mike Sainristil also collected an interception on the night, returning it 81 yards to set a CFP title game record. He also led the team with eight total tackles (six solo).

The 2023-24 campaign is the winningest season in Michigan history, as the Wolverines join the 2018-19 Clemson Tigers, 2019-20 LSU Tigers and 2023-23 Georgia Bulldogs as the fourth team in the CFP era to finish a season with a perfect 15-0 record. Michigan's victory also marked the second straight year (Georgia, 2022-23) and fourth time in the last five seasons (LSU, 2019-20; Alabama, 2020-21) that the top-ranked team went on to win the national title.

"Glorious win, I could not be prouder or happier of our team, 15-0. Took on all comers. Last one standing. It's a great feeling."

MICHIGAN HEAD COACH
JIM HARBAUGH

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DONATE
MAKE AN IMPACT

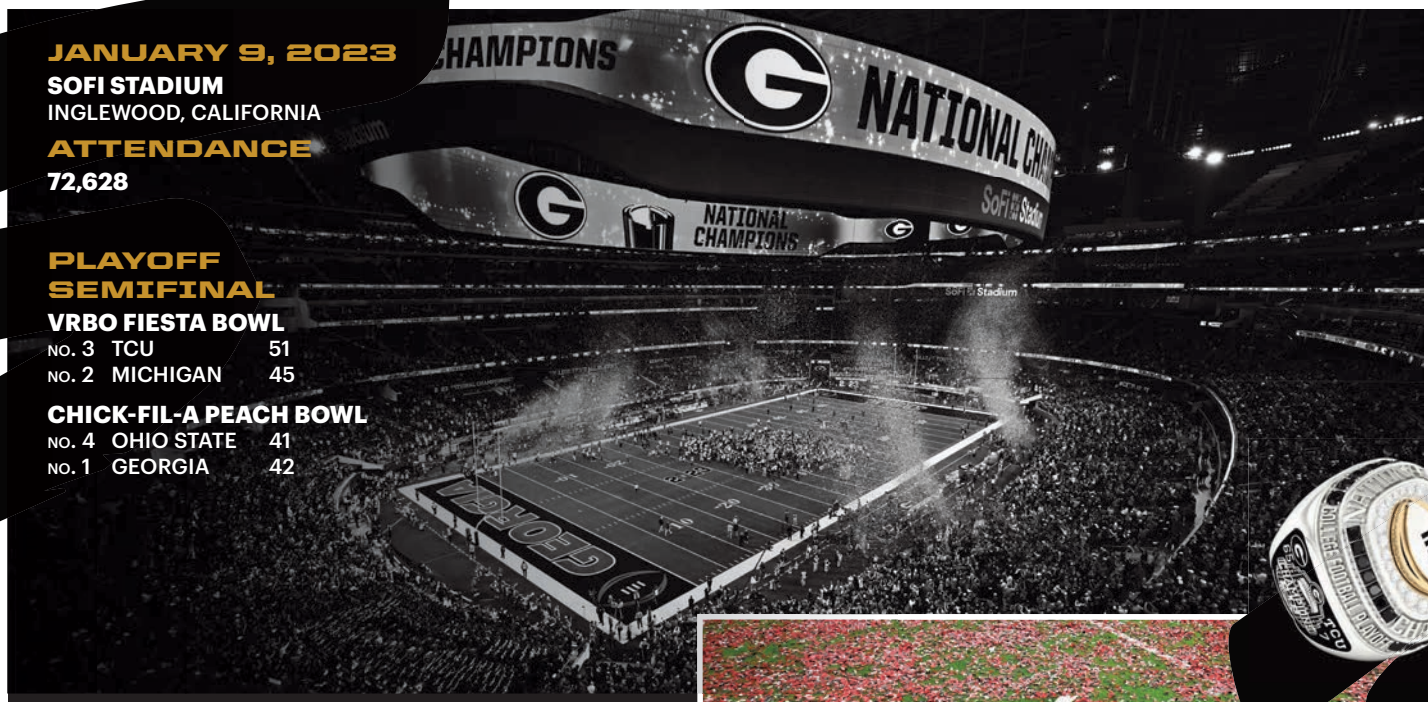
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

LOS ANGELES 2023

NO. 1 **65** vs **TCU** NO. 3 **7**

JANUARY 9, 2023
SOFI STADIUM
INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

ATTENDANCE
72,628



PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

VRBO FIESTA BOWL

NO. 3	TCU	51
NO. 2	MICHIGAN	45

CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

NO. 4	OHIO STATE	41
NO. 1	GEORGIA	42

NATIONAL ANTHEM
PENTATONIX

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
STETSON BENNETT
GEORGIA

DEFENSE
JAVON BULLARD
GEORGIA

The No. 1 Georgia Bulldogs defeated the No. 3 TCU Horned Frogs, 65-7, to capture the program's second straight College Football Playoff National Championship.

Unlike the 2022 national championship game where the Bulldogs needed to rally to secure the title, Georgia scored on its first six possessions of the contest vs. TCU and entered the locker room with a 31-point halftime lead off 371 yards. UGA finished with 589 total yards and limited TCU to just 188 yards, an average of 3.7 per play. The Bulldogs' 65 points were the most ever in a CFP or BCS title game.

Senior quarterback Stetson Bennett, a former walk-on, threw for 304 yards and four touchdowns, while also pitching in another two rushing scores. Bennett, whose six total touchdowns tied LSU's Joe Burrow (2020) for the CFP National Championship record, was voted the Offensive Player of the Game for the second straight year.

Overall, Georgia's offense posted five rushing touchdowns, including the pair by Bennett and another two from Branson Robinson. Ladd McConkey also pulled down two touchdown receptions on the night, while Brock Bowers grabbed seven passes for 152 yards and a TD.

Sophomore DB Javon Bullard was named Defensive Player of the Game after picking off a pair of TCU passes and recovering a Horned Frog fumble, all in the first half. Overall, the Bulldog defense finished the night with five sacks and nine tackles for loss, including a pair by Bear Alexander. Smael Mondon Jr. led Georgia with five tackles, including four solo stops.

Georgia is the first team in the College Football Playoff era to win back-to-back national championships. The victory marked the Bulldogs' 17th in a row to tie the program record, originally set from 1945-47. UGA completed the 2022-23 campaign with a perfect 15-0 record, joining the 2018-19 Clemson Tigers and 2019-20 LSU Tigers as the third team in the CFP era to accomplish the feat. Georgia's win also marked the third time in the last four seasons (LSU, 2019-20; Alabama, 2020-21) that the top-ranked team went on to win the national title.

"The journey is what it's about. And these guys have everything we've asked. I've just been so pleased with the mental makeup and the character of this team. They've embodied everything we've asked them to do."

GEORGIA HEAD COACH
KIRBY SMART

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The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund (GGAF) is a non-stock non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, providing financial grants and pro bono medical assistance to retired NFL players in dire need. The organization focuses on the humanitarian side of post-football related issues: social services to retired players who are in need due to a variety of reasons such as, inadequate disability and/or pensions.

We provide hands-on assistance to help retired players and their families deal with the hardships they face after football.

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- Medication
- Pro bono surgeries
- Coordination of services for food
- Automotive payments
- Childcare

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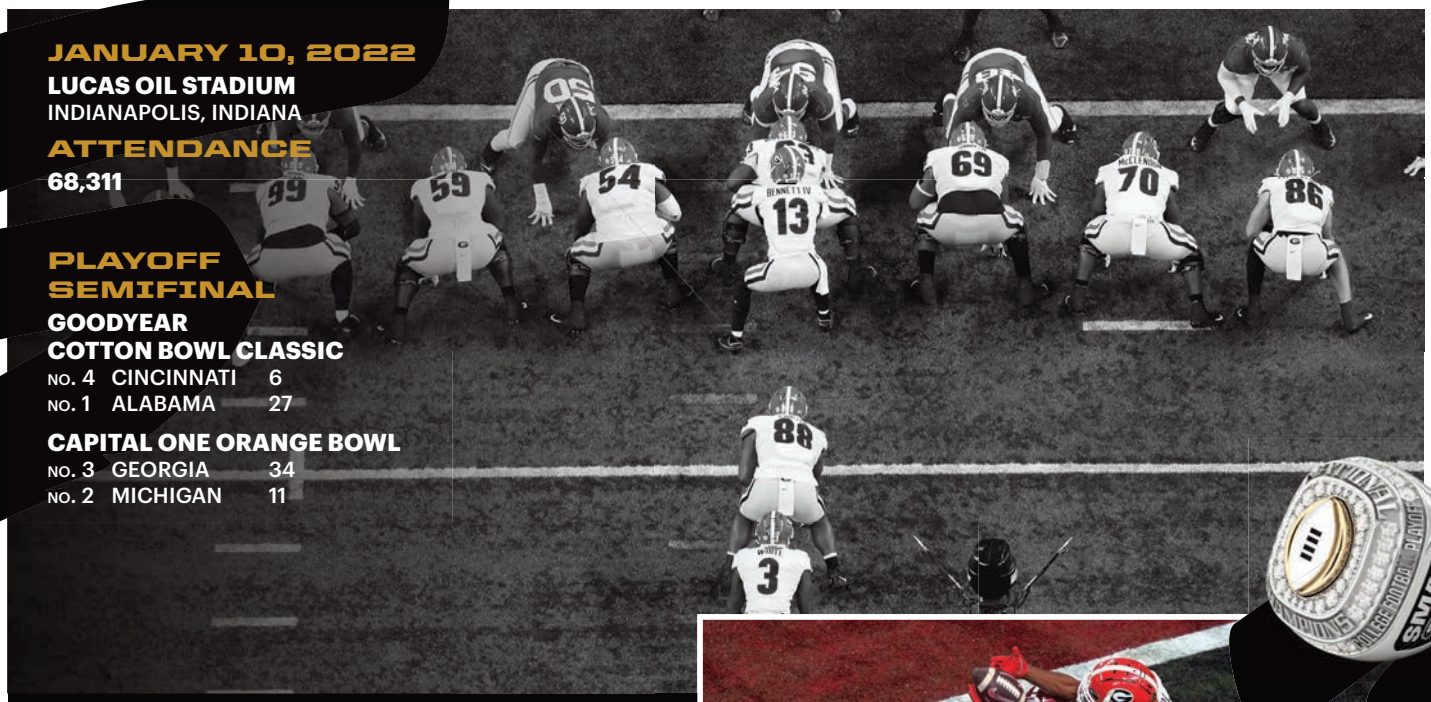
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

INDIANAPOLIS 2022

NO. 3 **33** vs **18** NO. 1



JANUARY 10, 2022
LUCAS OIL STADIUM
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

ATTENDANCE
68,311

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC

NO. 4	CINCINNATI	6
NO. 1	ALABAMA	27

CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL

NO. 3	GEORGIA	34
NO. 2	MICHIGAN	11

NATIONAL ANTHEM
NATALIE GRANT

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
STETSON BENNETT
GEORGIA

DEFENSE
LEWIS CINE
GEORGIA

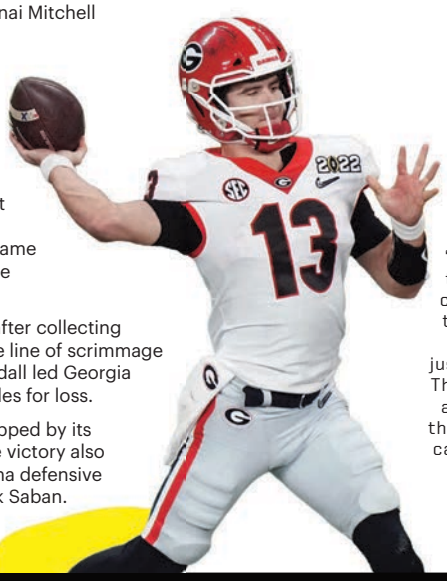
The No. 3 Georgia Bulldogs defeated the No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide, 33-18, capturing the program's first national championship in the College Football Playoff and first overall national title in 41 years.

In the contest, senior quarterback Stetson Bennett, a former walk-on, threw two touchdown passes, including scoring throws of 40 yards to Adonai Mitchell and 15 yards to Brock Bowers. Bennett completed 17-of-26 passes for 224 yards en route to being voted the Offensive Player of the Game.

Georgia again leaned on its defense, allowing only 30 rushing yards from the Tide. UGA's title clinching touchdown came on cornerback Kelee Ringo's 79-yard interception return of Bryce Young's pass with less than a minute remaining. It was redemption for a Bulldog defensive unit that hadn't allowed more than 17 points in a game before being humbled in its 41-24 loss to Alabama in the SEC championship game on Dec. 4. The Bulldogs entered the national championship game allowing a nation-best 9.6 points per game.

Junior DB Lewis Cine was named Defensive Player of the Game after collecting seven total tackles, including six solo stops, one from behind the line of scrimmage and a pass breakup. Linebackers Quay Walker and Channing Tindall led Georgia with eight tackles apiece, while Nolan Smith pitched in two tackles for loss.

Georgia completed the 2021-22 campaign with a 14-1 record, capped by its first national title since the 1980 season under Vince Dooley. The victory also marked the first for UGA head coach Kirby Smart, former Alabama defensive coordinator, in five meetings with Crimson Tide head coach Nick Saban.



"I can't describe the feeling. I tried not to put the Bulldog Nation on my shoulders because I can't carry that weight. But when Kelee caught that pick -- and I didn't even see him score the touchdown. I just saw him catch the pick -- it just lifted off my shoulders. I just started crying. The emotions just came over me. It was probably a little too early because football is crazy. But that was when it all hit me, the wave of emotion. I can't describe it. I wasn't expecting it. It caught me off guard. But that was when it set in."

GEORGIA QUARTERBACK
STETSON BENNETT

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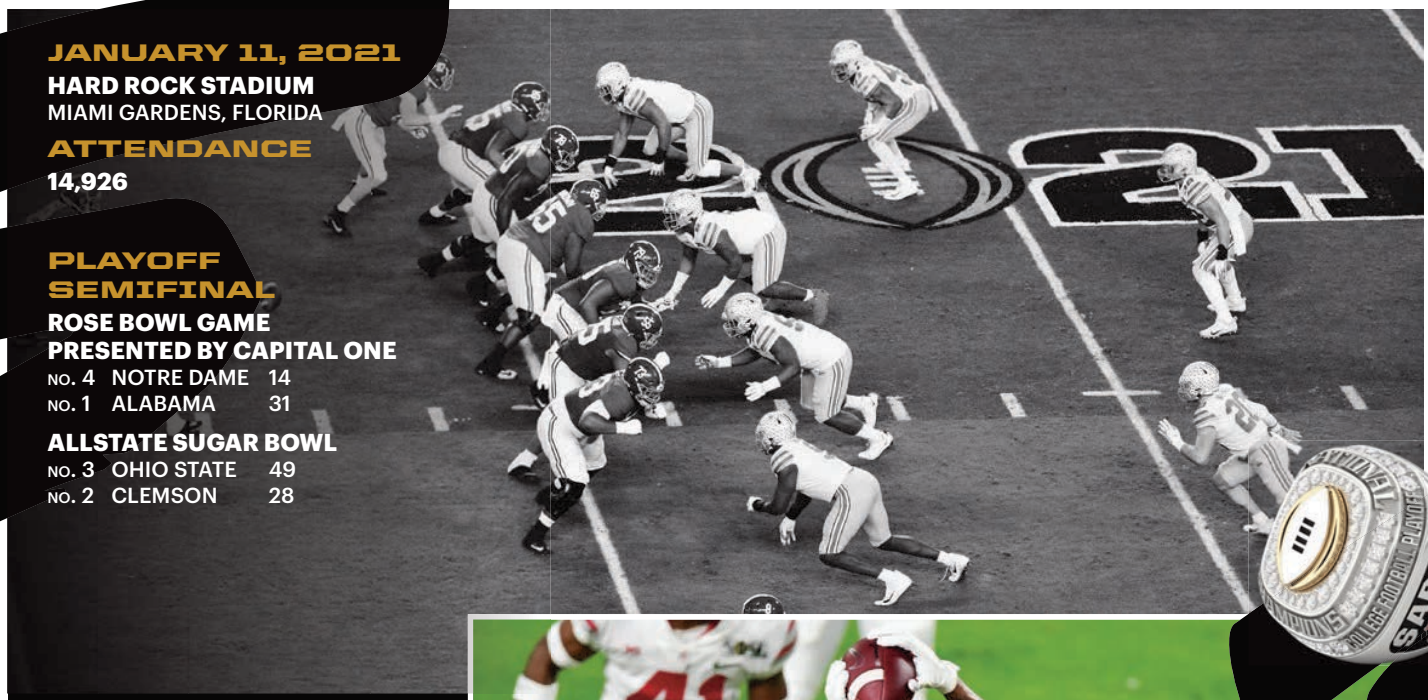
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
MIAMI 2021

NO. 1 **52** vs **24** NO. 3



JANUARY 11, 2021
HARD ROCK STADIUM
MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA

ATTENDANCE
14,926

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

ROSE BOWL GAME
PRESENTED BY CAPITAL ONE

NO. 4	NOTRE DAME	14
NO. 1	ALABAMA	31

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

NO. 3	OHIO STATE	49
NO. 2	CLEMSON	28

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
DEVONTA SMITH
ALABAMA

DEFENSE
CHRISTIAN BARMORE
ALABAMA

The final game of a college football season that was uncertain to be played in the summer and filled with disruptions because of a pandemic ended with the CFP No. 1 seed taking a 52-24 win over No. 3 Ohio State. It was Alabama's sixth national championship in 12 years under head coach Nick Saban.

The Tide finished the year 13-0. Wide receiver DeVonta Smith, running back Najee Harris and quarterback Mac Jones proved to be too much for a very talented Ohio State squad, putting together 60 minutes of impressive execution.

"To me, this is the ultimate team," Saban said. "There is more togetherness on this team than on almost any team we've ever had. They've had to overcome and to persevere so much through this season, and they have done it magnificently."

Smith saved the best for last, another terrific performance in the final game of his college career. The Heisman Trophy winner had 12 catches for 215 yards and three touchdowns, all in the first half. Smith finished his career as the leading receiver in SEC history and Offensive Player of the Game.

Ohio State's Justin Fields passed for 194 yards and a touchdown. Jones was 36-of-45 for a national championship-record 464 yards and five touchdowns. Harris had 158 yards from scrimmage on 29 touches, scoring three times to give him an SEC-record 30 touchdowns on the season.

"I think we're the best team to ever play. There is no team that will ever play an SEC schedule like that again."

ALABAMA QUARTERBACK
MAC JONES

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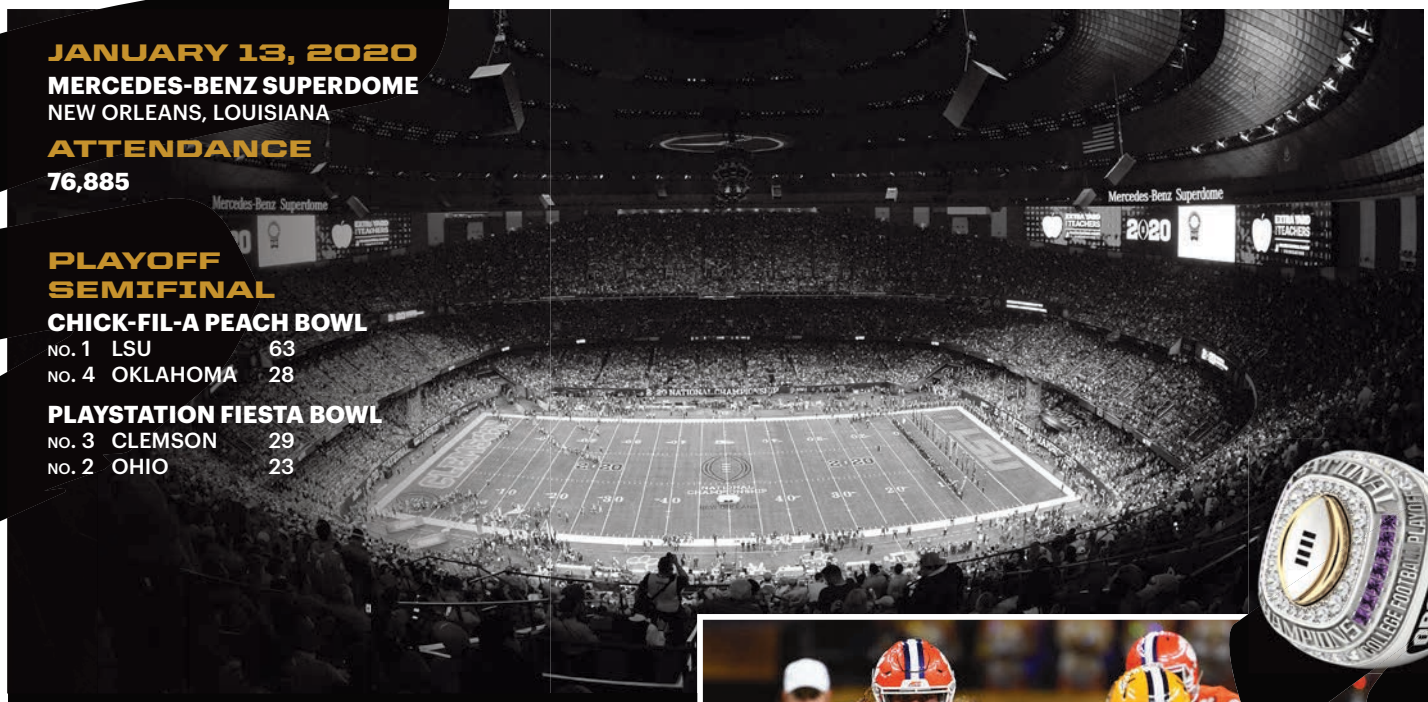
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW ORLEANS 2020

NO. 1 **42** LSU VS NO. 3 **25**



JANUARY 13, 2020
MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

ATTENDANCE
76,885

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

NO. 1	LSU	63
NO. 4	OKLAHOMA	28

PLAYSTATION FIESTA BOWL

NO. 3	CLEMSON	29
NO. 2	OHIO	23

NATIONAL ANTHEM
LAUREN DAIGLE

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
JOE BURROW
LSU

DEFENSE
PATRICK QUEEN
LSU

Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow capped a record-breaking season for both he and his team, bringing the CFP National Championship title to LSU in a 42-25 win over Clemson. The Offensive Player of the Game, Burrow's five touchdown passes and 463 yards through the air were the most for a BCS or CFP title game, as were his six total touchdowns. It marked the first time the top-ranked team won the CFP National Championship and the second straight year the champion finished the season at 15-0.

Ja'Marr Chase caught nine balls for 221 yards and two scores, and Justin Jefferson added nine catches for 106 yards. Thaddeus Moss had five catches and two scores. Defensively, LSU's Patrick Queen's eight total tackles, including six solo stops plus a half-sack, earned him Defensive Player of the Game honors.

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence started the game with a rushing touchdown, while also connecting on 18-of-37 passes for 234 yards. Remarkably, it was the first loss of his collegiate career, ending a personal 25-game win streak as a starter and a 29-game win streak for Clemson overall.

"He's one of the greatest players in LSU history. He's done so much for the state of Louisiana and LSU. We are so grateful to Joe Burrow."

LSU HEAD COACH
ED ORGERON

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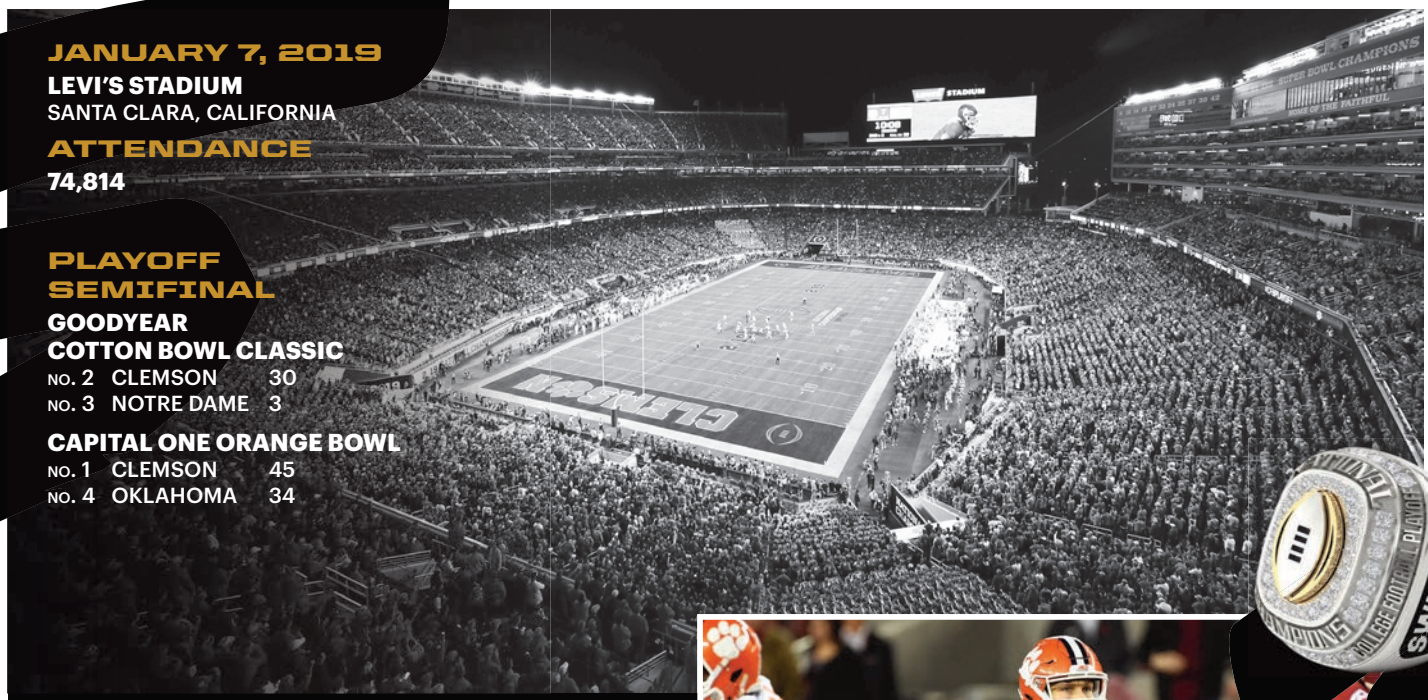
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
BAY AREA 2019

NO. 2 **44** VS NO. 1 **16**



JANUARY 7, 2019
LEVI'S STADIUM
SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

ATTENDANCE
74,814

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC

NO. 2	CLEMSON	30
NO. 3	NOTRE DAME	3

CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL

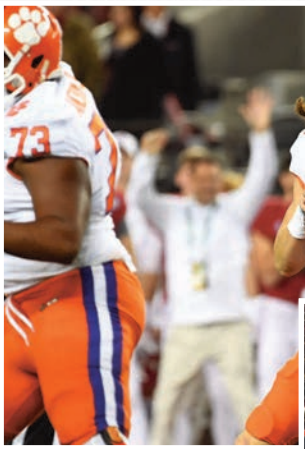
NO. 1	CLEMSON	45
NO. 4	OKLAHOMA	34

NATIONAL ANTHEM
ANDY GRAMMER

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
TREVOR LAWRENCE
CLEMSON

DEFENSE
TRAYVON MULLEN
CLEMSON



Round III of the title-game series between these teams actually marked the fourth straight year they met in a CFP game — the Crimson Tide dominated the Tigers in a 2018 Playoff Semifinal. This time, it was almost all Clemson.

After a back-and-forth first quarter, the Tigers found themselves down, 16-14, early in the second quarter. Then freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence, running back Travis Etienne and a defense led by cornerback Travyon Mullen turned the game around.

Lawrence connected with nine receivers, completing 20-of-32 passes for 347 yards and three touchdowns, and Etienne ran for a pair of touchdowns. Mullen had a sack, forced a fumble and returned an interception 46 yards as the Tigers stopped an Alabama offense that had been averaging 47 points per game.

Clemson became the first team to go 15-0 since Penn in 1897.

"Our guys had the eye of the tiger. I'm so proud for our seniors, to be able to go out 15-0 and truly be the best ever. To beat Notre Dame and to beat Alabama; this team won 13 games by 20 points or more and were led by an amazing group of seniors. I'm just thankful to be a part of it."

CLEMSON HEAD COACH
DABO SWINNEY

Omar Cooper
Class of 2022

Davion Chandler
Class of 2025

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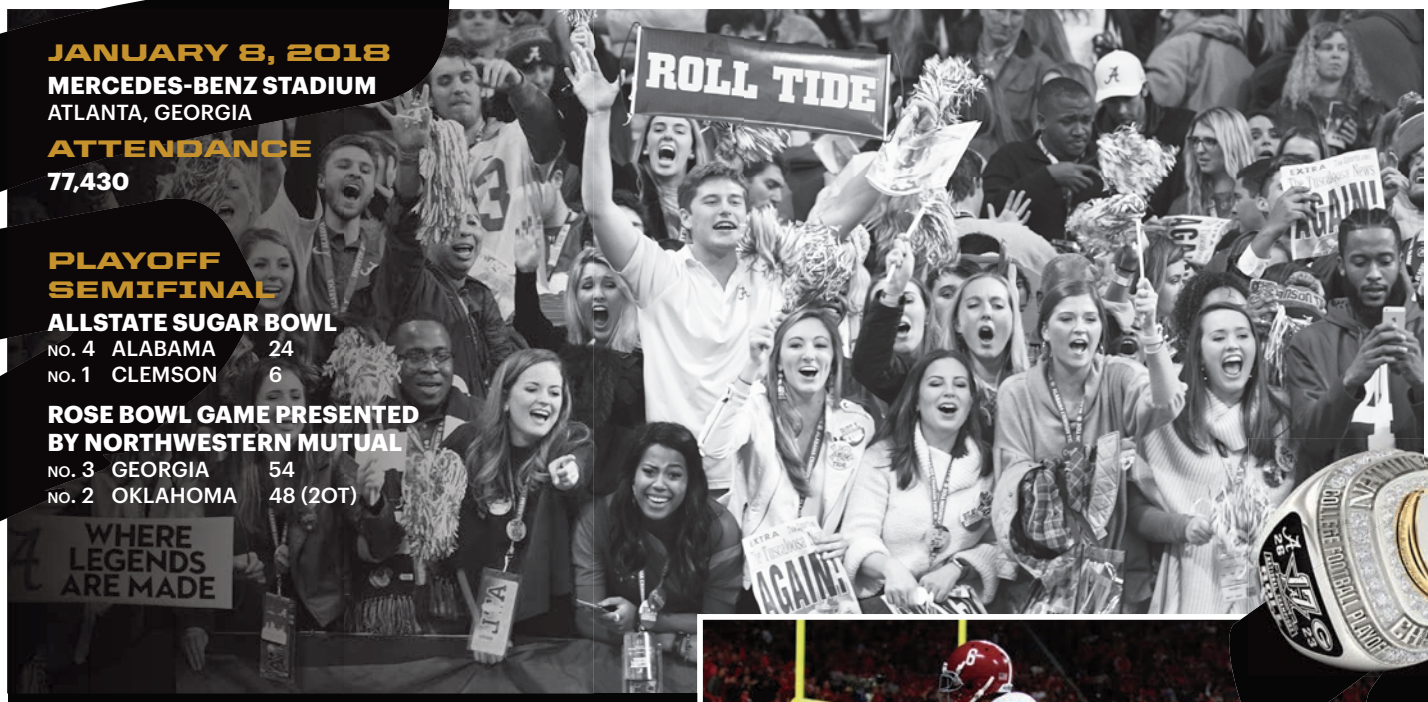
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
ATLANTA 2018

NO. 4 **26** VS NO. 3 **23** (OT)



JANUARY 8, 2018
MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ATTENDANCE
77,430

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

NO. 4	ALABAMA	24
NO. 1	CLEMSON	6

ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

NO. 3	GEORGIA	54
NO. 2	OKLAHOMA	48 (2OT)

NATIONAL ANTHEM
ZAC BROWN BAND

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
TUA TAGOVAILOA
ALABAMA

DEFENSE
Da'RON PAYNE
ALABAMA

The first title-game matchup between teams from the same conference (the SEC) also turned out to be the first CFP National Championship to go to overtime.

The game was a tale of two halves. Georgia stormed ahead, 13-0, by shutting down Jalen Hurts and the Crimson Tide offense. So at halftime, Alabama coach Nick Saban turned to backup quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, and the true freshman put on quite a show. The lefty guided the Tide to 20 points in the second half, tying the game with 3:49 left. Tagovailoa got Alabama in position for the winning field goal as time expired, but the 36-yard kick sailed wide left.

Georgia won the coin toss and reclaimed the lead with a 51-yard field goal. A sack by the Bulldogs' defense left the Tide facing second-and-26, but Tagovailoa found fellow freshman receiver DeVonta Smith down the left sideline for 41 yards and the national championship-winning touchdown. Alabama won its second title of the CFP era, its fifth in nine years, and gave Saban the sixth crown of his career.

"There's lots of highs and lows. Last year we lost on the last play of the game and this year we won on the last play of the game. These kids really responded the right way. We said last year, 'Don't waste the feeling.' They sure didn't, the way they played tonight."

ALABAMA HEAD COACH
NICK SABAN

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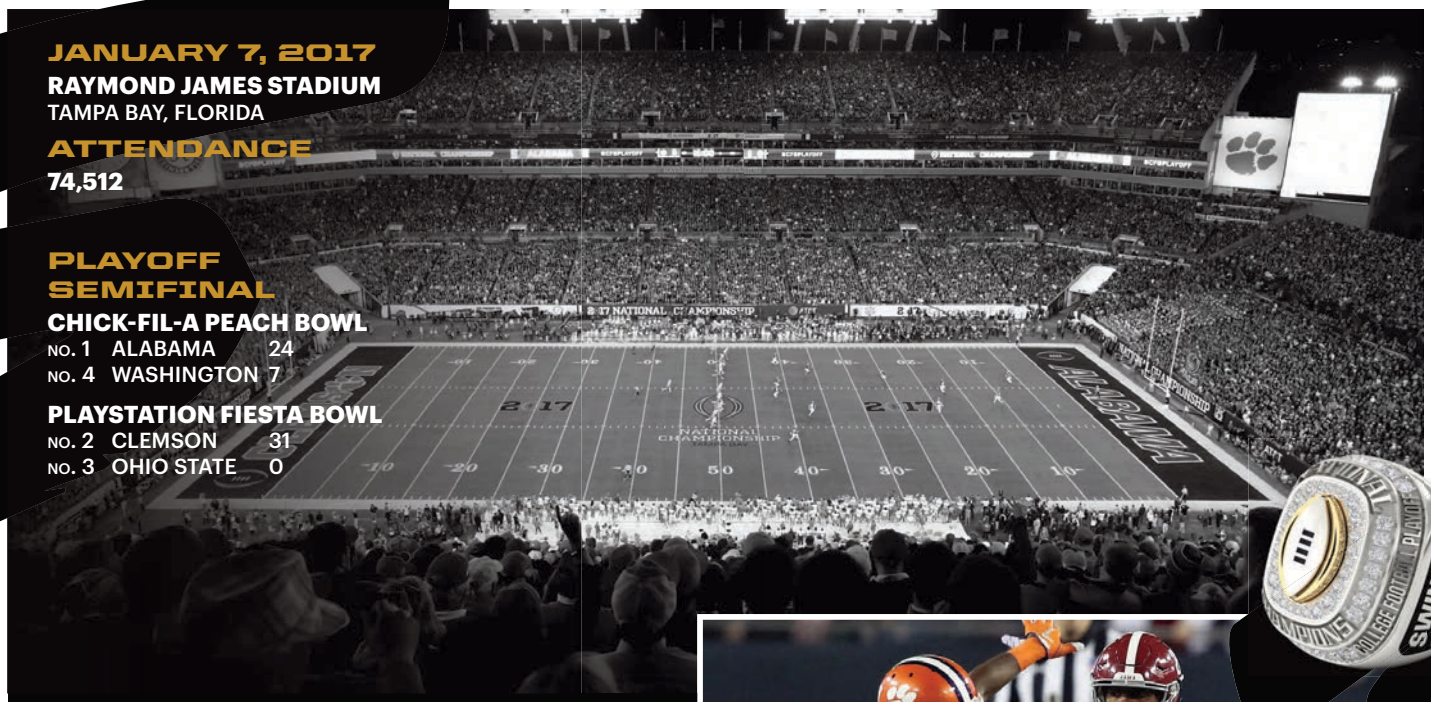
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

TAMPA BAY 2017

NO. 2 **35** VS NO. 1 **31**



JANUARY 7, 2017

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

ATTENDANCE

74,512

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

NO. 1	ALABAMA	24
NO. 4	WASHINGTON	7

PLAYSTATION FIESTA BOWL

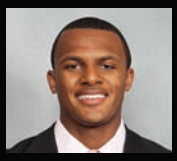
NO. 2	CLEMSON	31
NO. 3	OHIO STATE	0

NATIONAL ANTHEM

LITTLE BIG TOWN

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
DESHAUN WATSON
CLEMSON



DEFENSE
BEN BOULWARE
CLEMSON

In college football's first-ever postseason rematch between teams ranked Nos. 1 and 2, Clemson and Alabama staged an epic sequel to the 2016 edition of the CFP title game.

Seeking a second straight national championship, the Crimson Tide jumped ahead, 14-0, and cruised into the fourth quarter leading 24-14. Then Tigers quarterback Deshaun Watson took over, guiding two long, quick touchdown drives. That gave Clemson its first lead of the game, 28-24, with 4:38 left. The fun was just beginning.

Alabama's true freshman quarterback, Jalen Hurts, responded with a 30-yard touchdown run to reclaim the lead. Trailing again, Watson took over with 2:01 left on his own 36-yard line. The final 20 seconds were filled with dramatic moments, capped by Watson throwing a two-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow with 0:01 left.

The Tigers claimed their first national title since 1981 while snapping Alabama's 26-game winning streak.

"Eight years ago, we set out to put Clemson back on top. We came up a little short last year, but today on top of the mountain, the Clemson flag is flying."

CLEMSON HEAD COACH
DABO SWINNEY

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
ARIZONA 2016

NO. 2 **45** vs NO. 1 **40**

JANUARY 11, 2016
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM
GLENDALE, ARIZONA

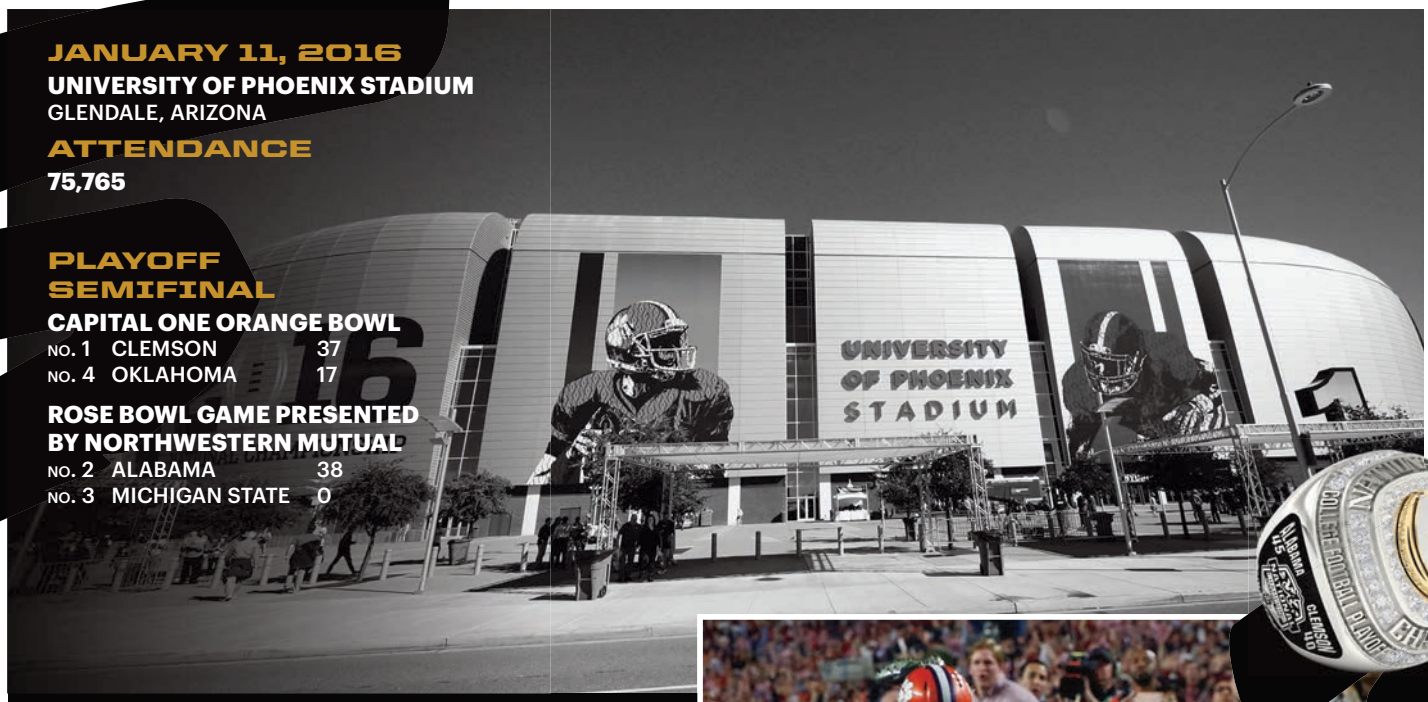
ATTENDANCE
75,765

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL

NO. 1	CLEMSON	37
NO. 4	OKLAHOMA	17

ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

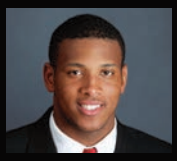
NO. 2	ALABAMA	38
NO. 3	MICHIGAN STATE	0



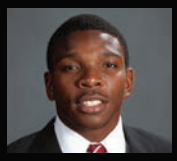
NATIONAL ANTHEM
CIARA

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
O.J. HOWARD
ALABAMA



DEFENSE
EDDIE JACKSON
ALABAMA

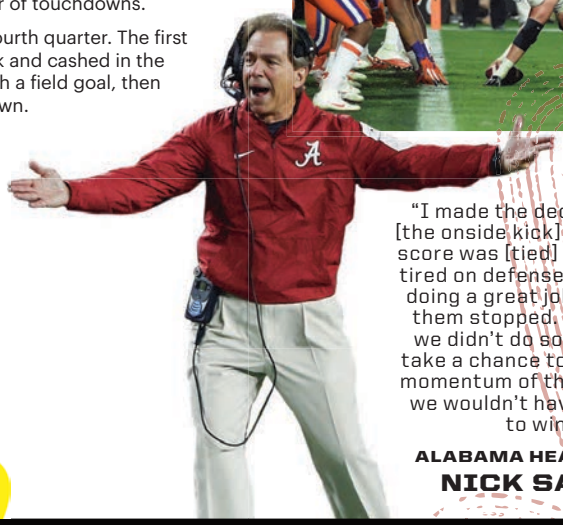


The highly anticipated showdown between two powerful teams somehow managed to exceed the hype. And it turned out to be the first act of the defining college football matchup of the decade.

The individual stars shined brightly. Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson, a Heisman Trophy finalist, compiled 478 total yards. Yet Alabama's Heisman Trophy winner, Derrick Henry, ran for 158 yards and three touchdowns. Tide tight end O.J. Howard caught five passes for 208 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The game ultimately was decided by two plays by Alabama's special teams in the fourth quarter. The first came right after the Tide tied the game at 24. They recovered a surprise onside kick and cashed in the extra possession with a 51-yard touchdown pass to Howard. Clemson answered with a field goal, then Alabama's Kenyan Drake returned the ensuing kickoff 95 yards for another touchdown.

The Crimson Tide claimed its first CFP National Championship in a classic contest between two formidable teams.



"I made the decision to do [the onside kick] because the score was [tied] and we were tired on defense. We weren't doing a great job of getting them stopped. I felt like if we didn't do something or take a chance to change the momentum of the game that we wouldn't have a chance to win."

ALABAMA HEAD COACH
NICK SABAN

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NORTH TEXAS 2015

NO. 4 **42** OHIO STATE vs OREGON **20** NO. 2

JANUARY 12, 2015

AT&T STADIUM
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

ATTENDANCE

85,689

PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

NO. 4	OHIO STATE	42
NO. 1	ALABAMA	35

ROSE BOWL GAME PRESENTED BY NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

NO. 2	OREGON	59
NO. 3	FLORIDA STATE	20

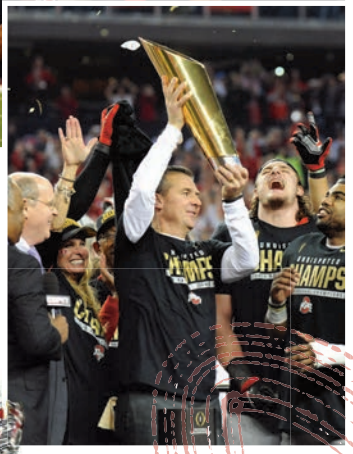
NATIONAL ANTHEM

LADY A

PLAYER OF THE GAME

OFFENSE
EZEKIEL ELLIOTT
OHIO STATE

DEFENSE
TYVIS POWELL
OHIO STATE



AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, was the scene of the first College Football Playoff National Championship—and the culmination of a fairy-tale ending that would have left Cinderella high-fiving Snow White.

Cardale Jones ended spring practice as the No. 3 quarterback on the Ohio State depth chart. But when returning starter Braxton Miller got hurt before the season and J.T. Barrett got hurt in the regular-season finale, Jones was pressed into duty. His first college start came against Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game, and he led the Buckeyes to a 59-0 win. Then he guided the fourth-seeded Buckeyes past top-seeded Alabama, 42-35, in the College Football Playoff Semifinal. That sent Ohio State into the inaugural title game against second-seeded Oregon and its Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, Marcus Mariota. The Ducks reached the CFP National Championship with a 59-20 victory over the reigning champs, Florida State.

The unheralded Jones outdueled Mariota, throwing for 242 yards and a touchdown, although the biggest star for Ohio State was the guy standing behind Jones in the backfield. Ezekiel Elliott ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns. So in the first year of the new format, the new College Football Playoff National Championship trophy was placed in the hands of a team that ended the regular season ranked fourth.

"All the odds were stacked against us through the whole season, and for us to be national champs, it not only means a lot to me but our community, Buckeye Nation, and our hometowns."

OHIO STATE QUARTERBACK
CARDALE JONES

2027

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 25 | LAS VEGAS

2028

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 24 | NEW ORLEANS

2029

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 22 | TAMPA BAY

ALLSTATE CHAMPIONSHIP TAILGATE

Global superstar **Pitbull,** also known as Mr. 305 and Mr. Worldwide, will headline the Capital One Music Stage at Allstate Championship Tailgate, bringing his high-energy performance to kick off the 2026 national championship game day festivities. In November, it was announced that fans will also enjoy a performance by Latina country rising star **Kat Luna**.

Pitbull will also be partnering with the CFP on several other fronts across the full national championship weekend, including a collaboration with the College Football Playoff Foundation and his SLAM Foundation to give back to the Miami community and focus on celebrating and supporting educators who make an extraordinary impact. As part of the collaboration, Pitbull will speak at the annual Extra Yard for Teachers Summit on Saturday, January 17, 2026, sharing his personal story and highlighting the teachers who positively shaped his journey. The partnership will also bring grant funding, educator recognition, and an Extra Yard Makeover to SLAM schools – providing meaningful support for those educators and the students they serve.

Additionally, he is working alongside the CFP and its licensing agent, CLC, on an exclusive Pitbull x College Football Playoff merchandise collection that will be available for purchase in the CFP Shop within Playoff Fan Central, a free family-friendly event that will be held January 16-18 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, as well as online at shop.collegefootballplayoff.com. This specially curated, limited-edition merchandise drop will feature original designs inspired by Pitbull's own take on the intersection between college football, South Florida and the national championship game. Royalties generated from the sale of College Football Playoff merchandise help fund the CFP Foundation's community engagement initiative, Extra Yard for Teachers.

GAME DAY PAGEANTRY + NATIONAL ANTHEM

AMERICAN IDOL WINNER JAMAL ROBERTS TO PERFORM NATIONAL ANTHEM

Prior to kickoff, Mississippi native and breakout soul artist **Jamal Roberts** will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner." After winning Season 23 of American Idol with a record setting 26 million votes, Jamal has swiftly transitioned from fan favorite to a chart-topping artist. His debut single, "Heal," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Gospel Songs and Gospel Digital Song charts and has been featured on Apple Music's "New Music Daily" and Spotify's "Fresh Gospel" playlists. Jamal joined R&B legends Brandy and Monica on their acclaimed The Boy Is Mine tour this past fall, performing to sold out arenas around the country. He was recently nominated for his first Grammy Award for Best Gospel Performance/Song for the live version of his song "Still," a collaboration with Jonathan McReynolds. With his authentic storytelling, soulful vocals, and a message of resilience, Jamal Roberts is not just an artist to watch, he's a voice that defines a generation.

Roberts will be performing an arrangement by award-winning musician, composer and arranger, Music Director **Adam Blackstone**. The National Anthem Ceremony will begin with the presentation of the Nation's Colors by a **Joint Armed Forces Color Guard** from the **Military District of Washington**, including members of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, followed by the unfurling of a giant American flag by volunteers from the Miami-Dade community. As part of the CFP's salute to the armed forces, the anthem ceremony will include video feeds of U.S. troops stationed oversees with service members deployed in Romania with the **4-3 Assault Helicopter Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army**, and in the Middle East with the **26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, U.S. Air Force**, all watching the national championship game. The ceremony will be further honored by a flyover from U.S. **Coast Guard Air Station Miami** in Opa-locka, Florida. Continuing a CFP tradition, drummers from the participating team bands will be included in the National Anthem presentation.

Before the National Anthem, "America the Beautiful" will be performed by members of the **Florida Memorial University Ambassador Chorale** under the direction of **Dr. Argarita Johnson**. Florida Memorial University is one of the oldest academic centers in the state and the only historically Black university in South Florida, long recognized for its commitment to leadership, scholarship, and the preservation of Black history and culture through education and the arts.

17-year old **Brianna Therve**, a junior at Barbara Goleman High School, will perform "America the Beautiful" in American Sign Language (ASL), and 18-year old **Maria Pernalete**, a senior at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" in ASL. Both students are part of Miami-Dade County Public Schools — the largest school district in Florida and the third largest in the country — and receive support through the district's Department of Exceptional Student Education, which provides specialized programs and services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students and their families across Miami-Dade County.

As part of the CFP Foundation's **Extra Yard for Teachers** (EYFT) initiative, the 2025 Teacher of the Year from each U.S. state and territory will be honored on the field during the pregame celebration. This is an opportunity for fans to applaud these educators for their hard work and dedication and furthers the CFP Foundation's mission of elevating the teaching profession.

Celebrating a college football tradition, the **marching bands** of each participating team will be featured performers on the field during pregame and at halftime.

During the national championship game, the College Football Playoff will recognize Medal of Honor Recipient **Master Sergeant (Retired) Earl D. Plumlee** for his extraordinary heroism during combat operations in Afghanistan on August 28, 2013. Faced with an intense insurgent attack, Plumlee repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to protect his teammates and save lives. His courage and selflessness embody the highest traditions of the United States Army and continue to inspire Americans nationwide.

ESPN sideline reporter **Stormy Buonantony** will return as the in-stadium emcee of the national championship game for the fourth straight year and will be joined by renowned **DJ Mal-Ski**, who will energize the crowd with his signature high-energy performance. This year, DJ Mal-Ski will be joined by eight latin percussionists from **Hussein & The Fire Drummers**, for a dynamic collaboration blending live percussion with electrifying beats.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RICH CLARK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rich Clark serves as the Executive Director of the College Football Playoff (CFP), guiding the organization through a period of growth, modernization, and unprecedented national visibility. Since taking the helm of the organization in June of 2024, Clark has quickly distinguished himself as a thoughtful, forward-looking leader, committed to elevating the postseason experience for student-athletes, institutions, and fans alike.

Clark assumed leadership as the CFP entered its expanded 12-team era—an evolution that reshaped competitive dynamics and national interest. In his first season, he prioritized ensuring that the expanded format delivered on its promise of greater opportunity and broader access. Under his direction, the CFP successfully executed the largest FBS postseason on record, managing the increased operational complexity of the first-ever on-campus playoff games, with expanded quarterfinal and semifinal games played at bowl sites. The result was college football's most watched postseason ever.

Clark also focused on enhancing the student-athlete experience, emphasizing hospitality and the traditions that make the postseason unique. He guided improvements to team operations, travel logistics, and on-site support, helping create a championship environment that reflects the significance of the moment for participating programs.

Clark joined the CFP after a distinguished 38-year career in the Air Force, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant General. He most recently served as Superintendent of the U.S Air Force Academy, where he directed a four-year regiment of military training, academics, athletic and character development programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S Air Force and U.S. Space Force.

Prior to his assignment at the helm of the Air Force Academy, Clark served as the U.S Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Integration at the Pentagon and was selected as a White House Fellow to serve as a key advisor to the Secretary of Labor.

Clark served three combat tours and received numerous awards and decorations during his career, including the Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Clark attended the U.S Air Force Academy, where he was a four-year letter winner as a linebacker and defensive lineman for the football team. In 1985, the Falcons finished his senior season with a 12-1 overall record, a Bluebonnet Bowl win over Texas, and a final ranking of No. 8 in the AP Poll and No. 5 in the Coaches Poll.

He and his wife, Amy, have a son, Milo, and a daughter, Zoë.

CFP STAFF

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Executive Director

SAM BERMAN
Events &
Hospitality Coordinator

MICHAEL BOS
Director of Premium & Ticket
Sales Operations

DESTINY BRANTLEY
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Operations Coordinator

KATIE CAVENDER
Assistant Director of
Communications & Branding

BRETT DANIELS
Senior Director of
Communications & Branding

CLAUDIA DORSEY
Assistant Director of
Business & Ticket Operations

ALLISON DOUGHTY
Director of Events &
Hospitality Services

JOHN FORD JR.
Assistant Director of
Team Operations

TIM FRICK
Director of Finance &
Business Operations

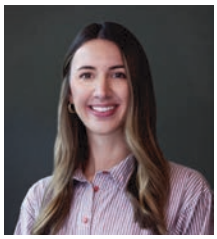
JUSTIN FUENTE
Senior Advisor for Football

WES GENTRY
Director of Administration &
Technology

SEAN GREEN
Ticket
Operations Coordinator

RYAN ALLEN HALL
Senior Director of Public
Events & Sponsorships

BYRON HATCH
Chief Operating Officer



ALYSSA LUCIO
Public Events &
Sponsorships Coordinator

DAVE MARMION
Chief Financial Officer &
Chief Revenue Officer

JOEL SOTO
Executive
Administrative Officer

HOLLY STALCUP
Senior Director of Stadium &
Game Operations

DANIELLE TYLER
Director of Team Operations

LESLIE VAN DYKE
Assistant Director of
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MARGARET FRANK
Partnerships Manager,
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KELLI ROBINSON
Program Administrator,
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DARCEY LONSDALE
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JORDAN PALMER
Business Operations Intern

KANEN ROSSI
Stadium & Game
Operations Intern

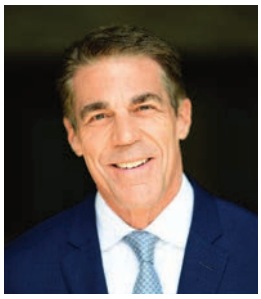
COLE SCHMITT
Tom Mickle Communications
& Social Media Intern

THAYER TALT
CFP Foundation Intern

ESPN TALENT

ESPN's top commentary team of Chris Fowler, Kirk Herbstreit and Holly Rowe will again be joined by Molly McGrath for ESPN's telecast of the College Football Playoff National Championship. The 2026 national championship game in Miami will be the 12th for Fowler and Herbstreit, who have called every CFP title game together since the event's inception in 2015.

ESPN TV



CHRIS FOWLER

KIRK HERBSTREIT

HOLLY ROWE

MOLLY MCGRATH

ESPN RADIO

SEAN MCDONOUGH

GREG MCELROY

IAN FITZSIMMONS

QUINT KESSENICH

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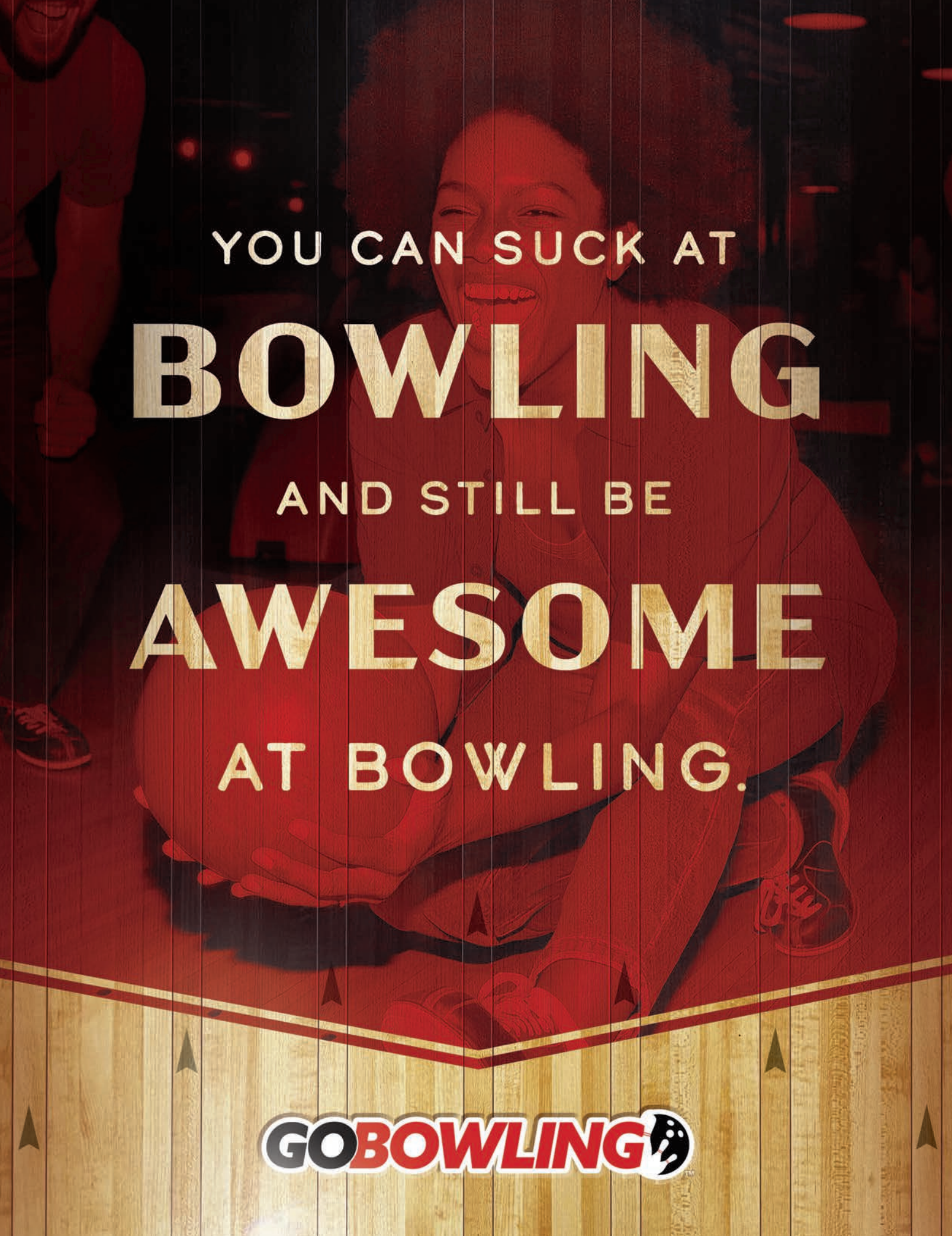
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